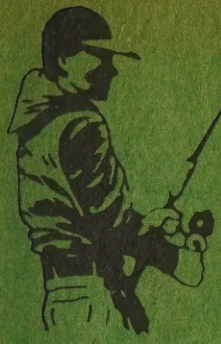


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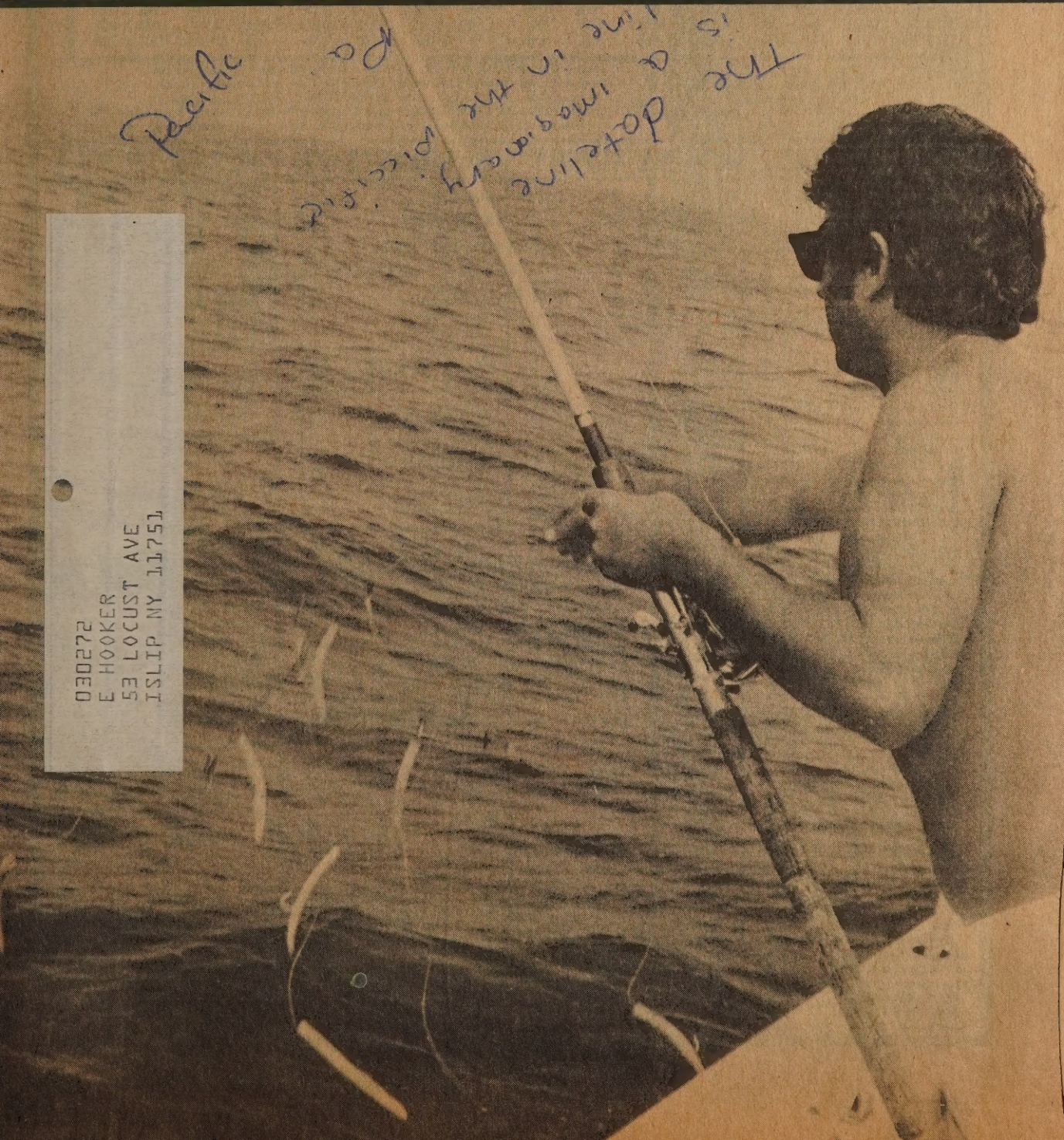
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

AUGUST 21st, 1980 ★ ISSUE NUMBER 34

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E HOOKER
53 LOCUST AVE
ISLIP NY 11751



HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEW-PORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	4:00	4:40	5:05	5:35	4:45	5:15	6:05	6:20	7:25	7:40	7:40	8:05	4:20	4:45	8/21
FRI.	5:10	5:40	6:00	6:30	5:50	6:15	6:55	7:10	8:30	8:40	8:35	8:55	5:15	5:40	8/22
SAT.	6:10	6:35	6:55	7:20	6:50	7:10	7:45	7:55	9:25	9:35	9:30	9:50	6:05	6:30	8/23
SUN.	7:00	7:25	7:45	8:10	7:40	7:55	8:30	8:45	10:20	10:30	10:20	10:40	6:55	7:15	8/24
MON.	7:50	8:10	8:30	8:55	8:30	8:45	9:15	9:35	11:10	11:25	11:10	11:25	7:45	8:05	8/25
TUE.	8:40	8:55	9:20	9:40	9:15	9:30	10:05	10:25	11:55	11:55	11:55	—	8:30	8:55	8/26
WED.	9:25	9:45	10:10	10:30	10:00	10:20	10:50	11:15	12:15	12:40	12:15	12:45	9:20	9:40	8/27
THUR.	10:10	10:35	10:55	11:20	10:55	11:15	11:40	—	1:05	1:30	1:05	1:30	10:10	10:30	8/28

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....-0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." -0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 1/2 hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	- 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	- 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	- 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	- 0 12
Seaside Park	- 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	- 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	- 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	- 0 26
Gr. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNSEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	- 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	- 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	- 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	- 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	- 0 38
Democrat Point	- 0 38
Coast Guard Station	- 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	- 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freepoint Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	- 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	- 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	- 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	- 0 08
Herod Point	- 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	- 0 20
Truman Beach	- 0 42
Falkner Island	- 0 13
Sachem Head	- 0 10
Branford Harbor	- 0 07
New Haven Harbor	- 0 08
Millford Harbor	- 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	- 0 03
Saugatuck River	- 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	- 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	- 0 14
Montauk Inlet	- 0 25
Montauk Point	- 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	- 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	- 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	- 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	- 0 10
Execution Light	- 0 06
Manhasset Bay	- 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	- 0 11
City Island	- 0 03
Rye Beach	- 0 28
Port Chester	- 0 09
Mamaroneck	- 0 08
New Rochelle	- 0 24
Dauids Island	- 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	- 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	- 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spyuten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	- 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	- 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	- 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	- 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	- 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

8/22	6:15	7:49
8/23	6:16	7:48
8/24	6:17	7:46
8/25	6:18	7:45
8/26	6:19	7:43
8/27	6:20	7:42
8/28	6:21	7:40

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
8/10	8/18	8/26	8/3

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	12:55	7:35	1:25	8:00
Fri.	1:45	8:20	2:15	8:50
Sat.	2:30	9:15	3:05	9:40
Sun.	3:25	10:05	3:55	10:35
Mon.	4:15	11:00	4:50	11:30
Tues.	5:10	11:55	5:45	—
Wed.	6:05	12:20	6:35	12:55
Thurs.	7:10	1:20	7:30	1:55



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About the Cover—

While many trollers find umbrella rigs cumbersome to use, few will dispute their effectiveness. For tips on their use see "Doc" Grell's article on page 20 of this issue. Photo by W.A. Muller

COMING
NEXT
WEEK:

OPEN BOAT TECHNIQUES

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NEW JERSEY EDITION

Scott J. Simons
EDITOR

Fred Golofaro
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tim Coleman
NEW ENGLAND EDITION

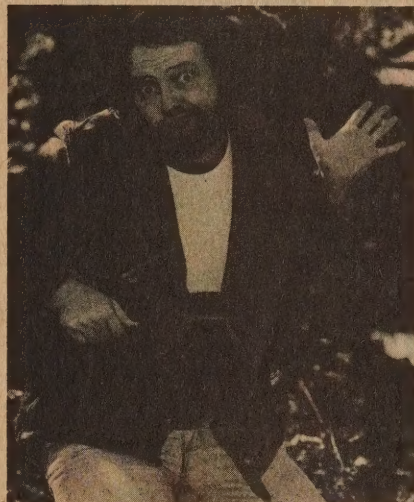
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The Fighting Chair

EMERGENCY STRIPED BASS STUDY

Public Law 96-118 was signed into law on November 16, 1979. This law, which re-authorizes the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act for another three years, carried with it an amendment which directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to undertake a three-year emergency striped bass research study to determine the causes for declines in striped bass populations. The amendment is commonly referred to as the "Chafee Amendment."

Many things affecting striped bass have occurred since the law's enactment and we expect more. We will keep you informed about striped bass activities carried out under the Chafee amendment. However, we do not want this to be a one-way street. We want and need your input.

The following will bring you up-to-date on the study as of July 1, 1980.

The legislative history of this amendment directed the administering agencies to develop the Plan of Action prior to undertaking research studies. Because of the late enactment of the legislation, and the realization that a delay would mean postponement of spawning studies until the 1981 spawning season, we authorized states to begin surveys on the spawning grounds in April so that the 1980 spawning season would be monitored. A short description of studies that have been authorized to date are as follows:

A total of five projects, for which the combined Federal share of project costs is \$244,896, have been approved. We expect to receive a study proposal from North Carolina in the near future. Briefly these studies are:

"Biology and Management of Striped Bass in New York Waters" (N.Y. State Department Environmental Conservation): this study covers juvenile recruitment; impacts of commercial fishing in the Hudson River estuary; investigation of morphological characteristics that may identify rivers of origin; and stock assessment for adult striped bass.

"Monitoring of the Status of the Striped Bass Population in New Jersey" (N.J. Division Fish, Game and Wildlife): this study is designed to estimate egg and larval occurrence and relative abundance, and to estimate the recruitment of young-of-the-year to the fishery.

"Assessment of Larval Striped Bass Stocks in Maryland Waters" (Md. Dept. Natural Resources): this study will include ichthyoplankton and zooplankton sampling; estimation of egg and larval distribution and abundance; evaluation of feeding habits and food preference; and monitor program design.

"Assessment of Larval Striped Bass in Maryland and Virginia Waters" (Va. Institute of Marine Science): this study is designed to determine abundance and location of striped bass eggs and larvae in the upper York River, and conduct discrete depth collections of larval striped bass in areas of high abundance.

"Relative Recruitment Estimates for Striped Bass from Three Virginia Rivers." (Va. Institute of Marine Science): this study seeks to measure relative abundance from the James, York, and Rappahannock river systems; explores the relationship between year class strength and commercial landings; and coordinates comparison-seining in these rivers.

The Chafee Amendment delegated to the Fish and Wildlife Service the lead role in determining the causes of the striped bass decline on the Atlantic Coast. Under a crash effort, two separate but closely related projects were initiated by the FWS during the 1980 striped bass spawning season. Under the first project, FWS and State biologists collected adult fish from a number of Atlantic Coast streams in April and May of this year. The Columbia National Fisheries Research Laboratory, Columbia, Missouri, will analyze the flesh for the kind and amount of contaminants which are present. A comparison of contaminants between areas may help elucidate what effects such chemicals have on survival, growth and reproductive success of striped

(Continued on page 36)

Pass It On...

AFTMA CONTINUES PROGRAM TO FORM GRASS ROOTS LOBBYING ORGANIZATION

Since the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA) announced the formation of the American Sportfishing Federation (ASF) as its top priority in 1980, many of the largest organizations in the sport fishing community have endorsed the concept and are working side-by-side to launch this important grass roots lobbying organization.

"The fundamental need for this unifying effort to protect and foster the growth of the sport fishery has been indicated to us through the support of many diverse fishing groups," said Paul A. Mulready, AFTMA president. Both clubs and independent anglers are working in unison to unite fishermen and to offer them an effective and logical means for fighting on behalf of recreational fishing interests.

The premise on which the Federation concept was formulated is most accurately stated in five key phrases contained in the ASF Articles of Incorporation:

1. To protect and preserve the nation's fishery.
2. To engage in non-partisan research, study and analysis for the benefit of the general public on questions affecting the public interest in the nation's fishery.
3. To represent sport fishing enthusiasts and other members of the general public interested in recreational fishing.
4. To collect and provide a source of information for date and issues relating to sport fishing.
5. To promote government policy which recognizes and fosters a healthy American fishery for sport fishing enthusiasts.

"Our industry is committed to successfully forming the ASF and, in so doing, will continue to provide the leadership and support services needed to accomplish this important task," stated Mulready. "Similarly, the collective might of all existing fishing groups and independent anglers can only be assembled into a national umbrella organization—with the combined efforts of every segment of the sport fishing community," stressed Mulready.

To provide adequate representation and strong local units, the Federation is being formed first at the state level with the assistance of individual State Coordinators and their volunteer steering committee members. Coordinators are acting as a liaison between the Federation and local clubs (as well as independent anglers). "Their involvement constitutes

the real grass roots movement of the Federation's development," added Mulready.

Once there are enough members in each state federation to elect a board of directors, a representative will be chosen to represent each state at national assembly meeting where a national Board of Directors will be elected. At that point, the national governing body will act as an administrative head, allocating necessary support services to local federations on an as-needed basis.

It is AFTMA's intention to continue its work as the impetus to organizing what will become an autonomous organization comprised of fishermen, governed by their own elected Board of Directors.

To join this important lobbying and public information force, write:

American Sportfishing Federation
P. O. Box 426
Chicago, Illinois 60690

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB

The results of Freeport Fishing Festival held on August 2, 1980 were as follows:

Largest Shark: Herb Seeba on the Wide Open II, 462 lb. tiger shark.

Total weight of shark: Wide Open II fishing for the Oakdale Club caught 700 lbs.

Largest tuna: Bib Giaraputo on the Sundown caught 118 lb. bluefin tuna.

Total weight tuna: Sundown fishing

for Hudson Anglers caught 118 lbs. tuna.

Largest bluefish: Ronnie DeLuca on the Wild Lady - 16 lbs.

Total weight bluefish: Bob Porter on The Shark, caught 413 lbs. bluefish.

NATURAL LIGHT BEER JOINS FORCES WITH AMERICAN SPORTFISHING FED

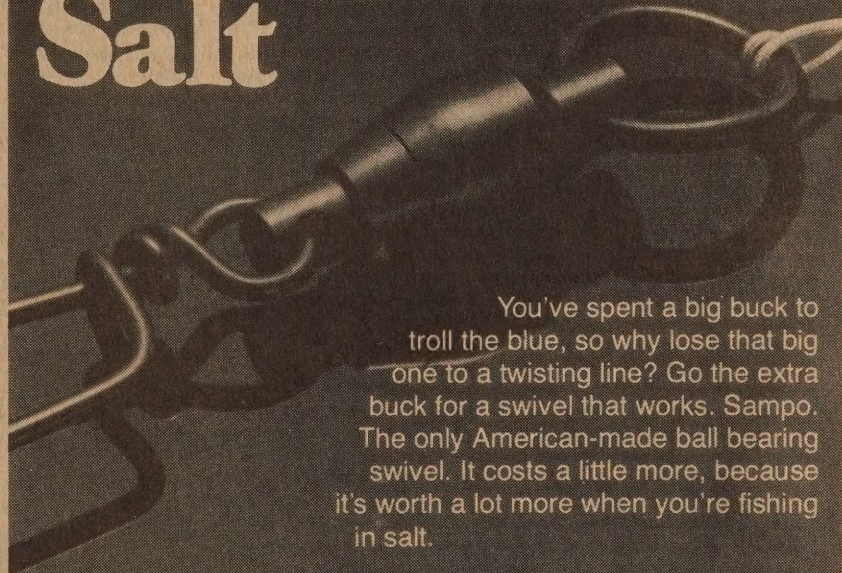
Natural Light beer and the American Sportfishing Federation have reached an agreement whereby the popular light beer from Anheuser-Busch will help promote membership in the recently formed federation in 1981.

Don Dixon, director of sports programming for Anheuser-Busch, said that while detailed programs will be unveiled later, "both organizations see this as a mutually beneficial, grass roots effort through which Natural Light can support sport fishing and its thirty-three million licensed partisans in the U.S."

With national headquarters in Arlington Heights, Ill., the American Sportfishing Federation was established in 1979 as a political and informational coalition to advance the common interests and concerns of sport fishermen everywhere.

Anheuser-Busch is the world's largest brewer of beers. In addition to Natural Light, the company brews Budweiser, Michelob, Michelob Light and Busch beers.

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At the end of the line

The Sport Fishing Institute has recently provided some provisional results from the 1978-1979 survey of marine recreational fishing on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Since all the areas are mixed together in these preliminary figures, the info isn't as of much use as it will be when broken down further. Similar species are also grouped together; but I trust that oversimplification will be remedied when the final figures come out.

As it is, the most frequently caught fish is somewhat

NATIONAL SCENE with Al Ristori

PROVISIONAL RESULTS FROM MARINE RECREATIONAL SURVEY

of a surprise. Porgies hold the number one spot with thirty million—about ten percent of the total. Keep in mind the fact that this figure includes other species of porgies found south of our area—though I suspect that our northern porgy (scup) constitutes most of that catch. Next in line are bluefish with twenty-four million (7.8%), while winter flounders are third at twenty-one million (6.8%). Following along were: spotted sea trout (southern weakfish) - nineteen million (6.2%); summer flounders - nineteen million (6.2%); catfish - nineteen million (6.2%); croakers - eighteen million (5.8%); spot - eighteen million (5.8%); snappers - fifteen million (4.9%); mullets - thirteen million (4.2%); sea basses - eleven million (3.6%); grunts - nine million (3%); kingfishes - seven million (2%); sand sea trout - six million (1.9%); and all others - seventy-nine million, or 25.6%.

Just looking at those raw figures brings out a lot of questions that need answering. Where are all the weakfish that have been so abundant in recent years? And how about the mackerel that are caught in such huge numbers during the spring—even in an off-year? It's not surprising that striped bass aren't among the leaders; but how far down are the cod, Spanish mackerel and groupers? And where did all those catfish and mullet come from? Sea catfish are considered a pest in southern waters and are rarely kept. The gafftopsail catfish is a good fighter and good eating, but not very abundant anywhere. Mullet don't take baited hooks, though I have heard of people catching them on vegetable products. However, almost all are caught with cast nets and other commercial gear. How are these getting into the "sport fishing" statistics?

According to the provisional figures, less than ten percent of the total catch was made from party and charter boats. Small boats—either privately owned or rented—accounted for about sixty percent. Some sixteen percent of the catch came from man-made structures, such as piers, jetties and bridges, while thirteen percent was caught from beach and bank.

About two-thirds of the fish were caught in estuarine areas (sounds, rivers, bays); while twenty-two percent were caught in ocean waters of state jurisdiction (out to three miles) and fourteen percent were boated farther offshore.

The total catch was estimated at 306 million pounds, of which about one-third were released alive. Average weight was surprisingly high: close to two pounds. It will probably be several months before this data is refined and verified. Meanwhile, many management plans dependent on this information (bluefish, fluke, sharks, etc.) will be held in abeyance.

Stone Gets 1980 Heddon Hall of Honor Award

Speaking of the National Marine Recreational Fishing Survey, the man most intimately connected with that project was just accorded a big honor. In connection with the annual American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association Show, held this year in St. Louis, Richard B.

Stone was the recipient of the 1980 Heddon Hall of Honor Award. Though Dick is currently the sport fishing expert with National Marine Fisheries Service in Washington (and thus, deeply involved in the survey), the award was presented in recognition of his eight-and-a-half years' work to develop and evaluate artificial underwater reefs.

Though there aren't too many people in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) who are qualified for an award, that certainly doesn't apply to Dick Stone. Dick, now 40, is a graduate of V.M.I. and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. He spent eight years at Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory studying the effects of temperature and currents on the distribution of fishes, and then transferred to the Atlantic Estuarine Fisheries Center at Beaufort, North Carolina where he directed the artificial reef program and a coastal pelagics task force. Since 1966, he has served as a constant advisor to artificial reef projects, research agencies, conservation groups and fishermen in this country and worldwide—and has still found the time to write over thirty-five popular, technical and scientific publications.

In presenting the award, John Marsman, Executive Vice President of Heddon, noted that although most of Stone's work has been in saltwater, freshwater applications are now proving equally adaptable. Indeed, the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association now is promoting a program of using brush and other materials to form freshwater "fishing holes" and bring the fish to the people. One of Stone's major contributions has been his work on a project in which an artificial reef was built just yards from a productive natural reef. As previously described in this column, the net result was a doubling of fish population in the area—rather than the new reef simply stealing fish from the original shelter. In other words, you probably can't provide "too much" shelter on the ocean bottom—even where a great deal of natural cover exists.

In a recent column, I had cited the natural vs. man-made reef study and wondered why a Massachusetts "junkman's" proposal to use old tires as reef material in Massachusetts Bay met with such a negative reaction from NMFS. This was especially surprising in view of the fact that Stone's work had led to the conclusion that properly constructed tire reefs are probably the best and most long-lasting of all. Dick indicated that he was studying this proposal and that it isn't dead—despite the opposition of Massachusetts druggers who are afraid of losing a small piece of ocean bottom to this effort.

Congratulations on this award are due not only to Dick Stone, but also to Heddon for giving it. It's not often that an inland tackle manufacturer will take the time to check into outstanding work being done in the marine area.

Don Miller Fighting For Conservation in the Everglades

Former "Long Island Fisherman" editor Don Miller has been appointed Executive Director of the Everglades Protective Association. As previously reported in this column, the Everglades' declining fishery got a shot in the arm from the Interior Department when new regulations were instituted as of March 17. Among other things, there will be limits on catches of sport species and a gradual phase-out of commercial fishing in the park area. Sportsmen in southern Florida fought long and hard for these changes, and they represent a good illustration of the possible benefits of a transfer of NMFS from Commerce to Interior. The present NMFS opposed the conservation effort in the Everglades.

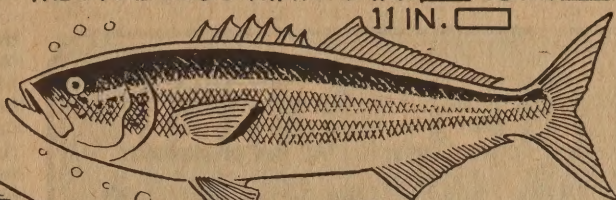
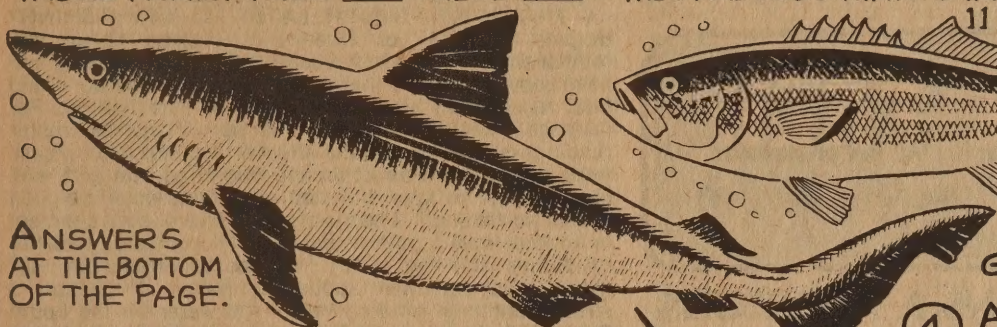
Don Miller was born in Glen Cove and ran a tackle shop there for many years. He was also well known on Long Island for his work on The Long Island Fisherman, and his fishing prowess. Moving to the Florida Keys nine years ago, Don quickly got involved in both fishing and conservation activities—including the Everglades Protective Association. He formerly served as Administrator of Keys Community Hospital and is current president of the Upper Keys Rotary Club. All of us who have the opportunity to visit the Everglades every now and again wish Don great success in the difficult effort of monitoring a very promising program of conservation and improvement of the environment through partial restoration of the natural sheet flow of fresh water through the Everglades.



THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

① WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SOUPFIN, SHARKS ARE POOR TABLE FARE. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

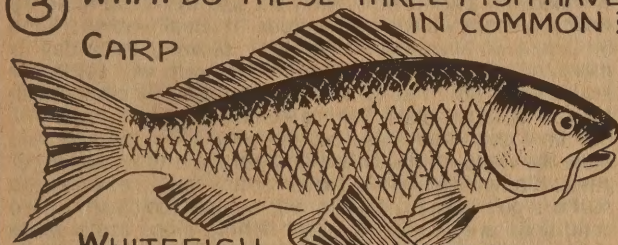
② BLUEFISH IN N.Y. STATE WATERS CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR SOLD IF THEY ARE LESS THAN 9 IN. ☐ 10 IN. ☐ 11 IN. ☐



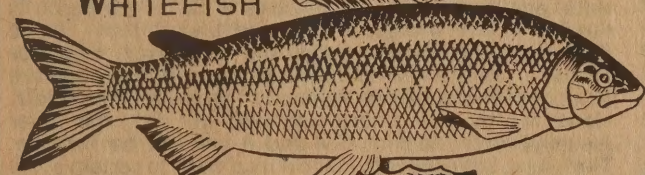
ANSWERS
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OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED
GUARDINEER

③ WHAT DO THESE THREE FISH HAVE IN COMMON?
CARP



WHITEFISH

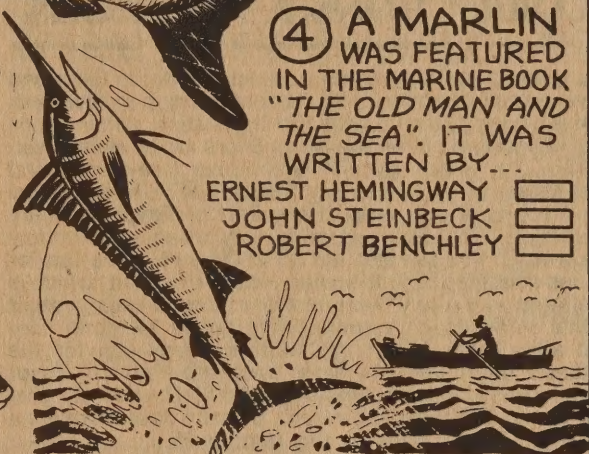


LUMPFISH



④ A MARLIN WAS FEATURED IN THE MARINE BOOK "THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA". IT WAS WRITTEN BY...

ERNEST HEMINGWAY ☐
JOHN STEINBECK ☐
ROBERT BENCHLEY ☐

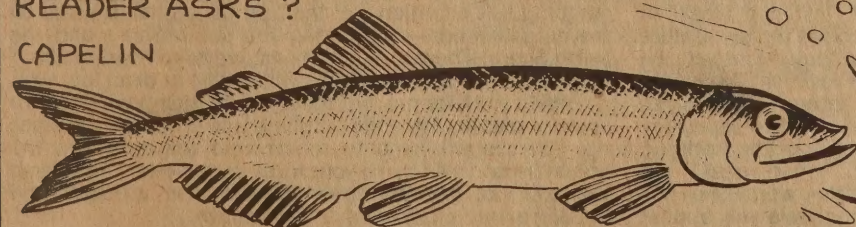


⑤ THE FEMALE FRESHWATER BASS PERFORMS THE CHORE OF DRIVING PREDATORS FROM HER NEST EGGS. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐



⑥ WHAT IS A CAPELIN AND WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS LITTLE DEEP SEA ATLANTIC OCEAN FISH, A READER ASKS?

CAPELIN



1 - FALSE. MANY SHARKS ARE SUPERIOR FOOD FISH. 2 - 9 INCHES. 3 - THEIR EGGS ARE DYED BLACK AND SOLD AS CAVIAR. 4 - ERNEST HEMINGWAY. 5 - FALSE. IT IS THE MALE. 6 - THE CAPELIN IS A SMELT-LIKE FISH WHICH IS A FORAGE FISH FOR ATLANTIC SALMON AND CODFISH. OVERFISHING CAPELIN FOR FISH MEAL PRODUCTS AFFECTS THE ABUNDANCE OF SALMON AND CODFISH.

THANKS TO WILLIAM AHLERS of New Hyde Park. He writes: "I just received Issue #24 and I was reading your column on letters from other readers. About the request from K. Bazata of Brentwood about ramps on the North Shore. Your answer left a large hole in the amount of ramps, and some misinformation, too. About the ramp at Port Jefferson: this ramp is run by the Town of Brookhaven and the fee for 1979 was \$7. There is

FISH TALK

with William A. Muller

CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

also a ramp at Stony Brook and one at Mount Sinai and these also charge a fee of \$7. There is a ramp in Mattituck that is owned by the Carafis Fishing Station. Other ramps that I know and use on the North Shore are at Hempstead Harbor Bar Beach (\$2); at Glen Cove (pre-season and post-season only); Oyster Bay (\$8), and at Huntington (fee ?). There is also a ramp at the Port of Egypt Auxiliary Station at Orient Point which is very treacherous on any north wind. You can also launch at Orient By The Sea for \$5 and this ramp is on the south side of the Point, which is sheltered very nicely. An important thing to keep in mind is that all the town ramps are free before Memorial Day and after Labor Day." We want to thank you for the updated information. I have used the Port of Egypt Auxiliary Station ramp and although a north wind will give you fits on launching and return, on calm days there is no problem. Also, the fee for this ramp is \$5.

WHY JELLYWORMS? Dorothy Wells of Huntington writes: "Why are weakfish attracted to different types of jellyworms? Do they hit them because of color, or do they have the ability to smell the different scents or taste the different flavors? If so, why do they take different flavors or colors at different times? Also, has the weak mouth always been a characteristic of the sea trout or has it developed over the years from protection from hooks?" There is much debate about why fish hit lures of different scents and colors. Some experts suggest that scents added to lures mask the presence of human odors which turn the fish off. Others say that the scents actually attract the fish. I believe that the scents may be an attractant in fresh water; however, in salt water there really isn't enough time or opportunity for game fish to smell an artificial given the usual patterns of fishing and the existing conditions of tides and currents. I believe that the main attraction of plastic worms (and incidentally, there are many brands and they all work), is their action and their texture. The plastic worms are ideal action imitators of sand eels or sea worms when fitted with the right lead-head and worked appropriately. When a weakfish grabs the lure it is soft and supple, much as a real creature is and therefore, they hold on whereas they might spit the bait if it were hard plastic or wood. Weakfish like bright colors—perhaps more so than either bass or blues. Blues will occasional prefer a bright green or red—especially tubes. Nonetheless, the weakfish seems to be the leader in the I-want-bright-colors department. When weaks are feeding on sand eels, the color of the worm may be important. Frequently, a school of sand eels will appear reddish, but there are also times when they seem pink, green, white, beige, or bluish. Thus, depending upon the color of the surroundings, worms of different colors will work better in different places. About the mouth of a "weak" fish. As far as anyone can tell, the mouth of weakfish have been delicate since the species first evolved. The mouth has not evolved as an adaptation to fishermen, but rather to their method of feeding.

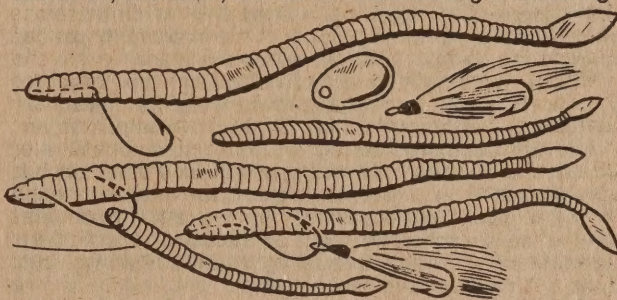
Generally, weaks prefer small soft baits and often these food items have to be ferreted out of soft bottom. Also, the body design of a weak does not allow for the gaping mouth; and without the teeth of a blue to chop the food up into small pieces the delicate mouth allows for more stretch and consequently, the weak can manage, with a little effort, to swallow larger baits when it has to. These larger baits include eels, bunker, snappers, and squid.

HOW IS WEATHER RELATED TO SURF FISHING? Eugene Lorenzo of Queens is curious about this relationship. "I have just recently started surf fishing and have come to believe that certain weather conditions and tidal movements are great factors in surf fishing. For instance, I would like to know what part, if any, barometer readings have to do with the effect on fishing. Also, please explain how wind direction and tide affect the surf, and how to judge or figure if certain conditions would be good or bad for fishing." The saying goes that one man's meat is another man's poison and when it comes to weather conditions and the effect of these conditions on surf fishing, that statement applies completely. In general, a strong southerly wind will dirty the water on the South Shore. If that wind blows for any length of time, the water will become loaded with sediment and the weed build-up near the shore will be tremendous. It usually takes a wind in excess of twenty miles an hour blowing for a day or more to cause this. A wind from the north will settle the surf down and if that wind follows a southerly blow, it can help to produce good fishing conditions since there will still be a good heave on, but the wind at the back should blow the weed off the beach and help you to make longer casts. If a northerly wind blows for any length of time, the surf will go flat and the water will become too clean. These conditions aren't ideal for surf fishing since some white water and some cause for the bait to be on the beach is needed to fool the game fish and attract them. Some fishermen swear by the sudden shift of a strong wind. For example, the first few hours of a strong northeast wind are thought to produce great fishing at the South Shore inlets. However, the strong northeast wind will dirty the water (usually) after the first tide and it will not be fishable. Therefore, the believers make a mad dash to certain spots the minute they see that wind go to the northeast. This is especially true during the fall. The North Shore is another matter. Here, a north wind will dirty the water and push weed in on the beach. In fact, perhaps the effect is worse in the Sound, since there is more soil mixed with the sand. Southerly winds are often the best winds on the Sound because the bait often moves "in under" a south blow. Of course, when the bait is on the beach, there is a better chance for game fish such as weaks, bass, and blues. However, it is important that I say that there are many variations in conditions from place to place and what I have just given are general conditions. Remember, in the Sound there are many points on land. One side faces the east and the other the west. Therefore, it is possible that with a strong east wind, the west side of a point of land, under the cover of the cliffs behind, will be fishable and productive. The inlets on the South Shore face to the southwest and sometimes a southeast wind will not dirty the east side of the inlet, and vice versa. Tide is something else again. Generally, Long Island beach fishing is an outgoing tide situation and the best fishing takes place on the outgoing tide—both along the South Shore and the North Shore. There are exceptions: we keep hearing about cow bass taken from the South Shore surf at dead low tide. It doesn't work for me, but the fish keep being weighed in! Look for places where the outgoing tide produces a surface rip. The rip will tend to concentrate the prey and the predators and also make your lures work better. The game fish will not get that good look at the artificial and therefore your chances of a hit improve.

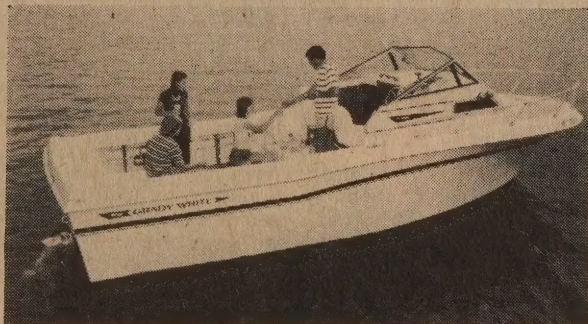
JOHN J. BRINDISI WRITES. "Let me thank you for answering my recent question regarding the care and maintenance of antique fishing rods. It was most helpful. While the next question might have been better addressed to John Fritz and his Surf column, I hope you can answer it in one of your weekly efforts. When I first began fishing in the late 1950s, the popularity of spinning reels was at a fever pitch. We were told that as compared to conventional

baitcasting reels, they (spinning reels) allowed for longer casts, were easier to use and maintain by the novice or occasional fisherman, and for surf fishermen eliminated the need for an educated thumb. No more birds'-nests and blistered thumbs. Surf fishermen of the world, rejoice! Although many freshwater fishermen continued to prefer the control and sensitivity afforded by baitcasting reels, spinning reels did seem to gain the upper hand. Being one of the spinning reel faithful through the years, and with the above in mind, I was most surprised to read in an L.I.F. article that in Europe a cast was made that exceeded 700' using an Ambassadeur 6500 reel. A check of my catalog shows that this reel comes with a level wind feature. While I realize that from the standpoint of mechanics conventional reels have an advantage over spinning reels in some areas of casting, is this great distance possible using a reel equipped with level wind? Do experienced surf fishermen prefer spinning or conventional reels when they require distance casting? Generally speaking, surf fishermen prefer spinning reels to conventional under all circumstances and that's why you see more spinning on the beach than conventional. However, conventional does have its advantages. In bait fishing, for example, I would prefer a conventional because it is much easier to work with. The jetty jockeys and bridge fishermen say that the conventional is a must for their type of fishing and we agree. But the spinning reel gives you longer casts under most situations and there is usually far less hassle. Now, these are not hard and fast rules, but they are generally true. For example, it is very hard to throw long consistently into a wind with conventional tackle and the rate of backlashes goes way up under such conditions. Modern conventionals, however, have added features that minimize backlashes—but often at the expense of distance. Don't be confused by how a reel of any make is described in a catalog and how it may appear on the beach. There isn't a reel I own for the surf, conventional or spinning, that hasn't been modified significantly so that it does a better job. One of the

problems in the designing of surf spinning reels is that the manufacturers ask some noted boat fishermen and writers for ideas and suggestions. As far as I know, they have never asked the "hard" surf fishermen, because if they had three-quarters of the reels currently on the market wouldn't even be there and the rest would be manufactured much differently. In tournament casting, to get back to the point, the casters (they aren't always fishermen) may virtually re-make the reel in order to get longer casts. Often the modifications make the reels useless for fishing. Then, too, a good part of how far you cast is your technique and there have been many articles that have detailed specific techniques of long distance casting. None of them involve how to throw a wood plug 700'. Distance casting, then, is often a "show biz" type affair and very little relevancy to catching fish—although there are notable exceptions. No matter what I do I haven't been able to make a 700' cast and I doubt that I have cast much beyond one hundred and twenty-five feet with either a plug or a hunk of bait—although I have made a cast approaching three hundred feet on a baseball field with a cylindrical sinker and a calm day in bright sun. The damp, heavy air of the night cuts your casts a lot, as does the resistance of the artificials and baits you throw. Standing waist deep also restricts the length of the cast and so on, and so on, and so on. Good fishing and casting!



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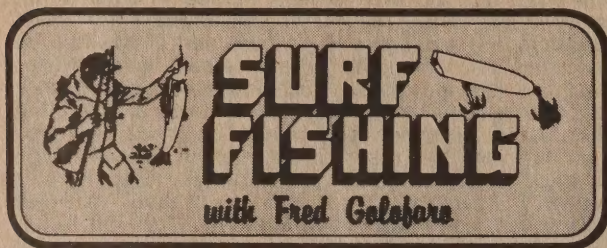
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Several Octobers ago, twenty or so buggies worked back and forth along a one-mile stretch of beach between Cupsogue and the East Jetty of Moriches Inlet. The usual array of popping plugs, swimmers, and tins were in evidence and despite an occasional good fish rolling just beyond the wash, no one was able to do anything with them.

Enter a husband and wife team who between them,



GET THE LEAD OUT

could lay claim to nearly a century of seasons spent flailing the surf. After surveying the scene for a few moments, the pair reappeared at the water's edge and within the next half-hour put away three stripers in the mid-twenty pound range to the consternation of nearby surfmen.

Some years back, as a score of casters took bluefish after bluefish from the rubble-strewn riprap that makes up the base of Oak Beach's Sore Thumb, one smart angler probed the depths bordering the rocks, and amidst the bedlam of a bluefish blitz, dragged ashore a thirty pound bass. Bucktail jigs proved to be the ticket in both cases.

More recently (this past July to be exact), myself and a friend found a school of weaks on the backside of Robert Moses which spurned the usual light tackle offerings, but found 5/8 oz. bucktails hard to resist.

Whether used along the open sand beaches, from jetties, or on the backsides of inlets, lead-head jigs adapt

themselves well to a variety of situations, as demonstrated by these past experiences. It has been said many times before and I'll say it again, "If I had to choose only one lure with which to do all of my fishing, it would be a bucktail jig." Why this humble, yet extremely effective artificial never really receives the accolades it deserves has perplexed me for a number of years. It is a steady performer, like Yankee third baseman Greg Nettles, making the clutch plays and always ready to give one hundred percent. Capable of coming up with a game-winning long ball or a spectacular driving catch. Yet, just as Nettles doesn't receive the attention of a Jackson or a Guidry, very few surfmen even bother to include bucktails in their surf bags.

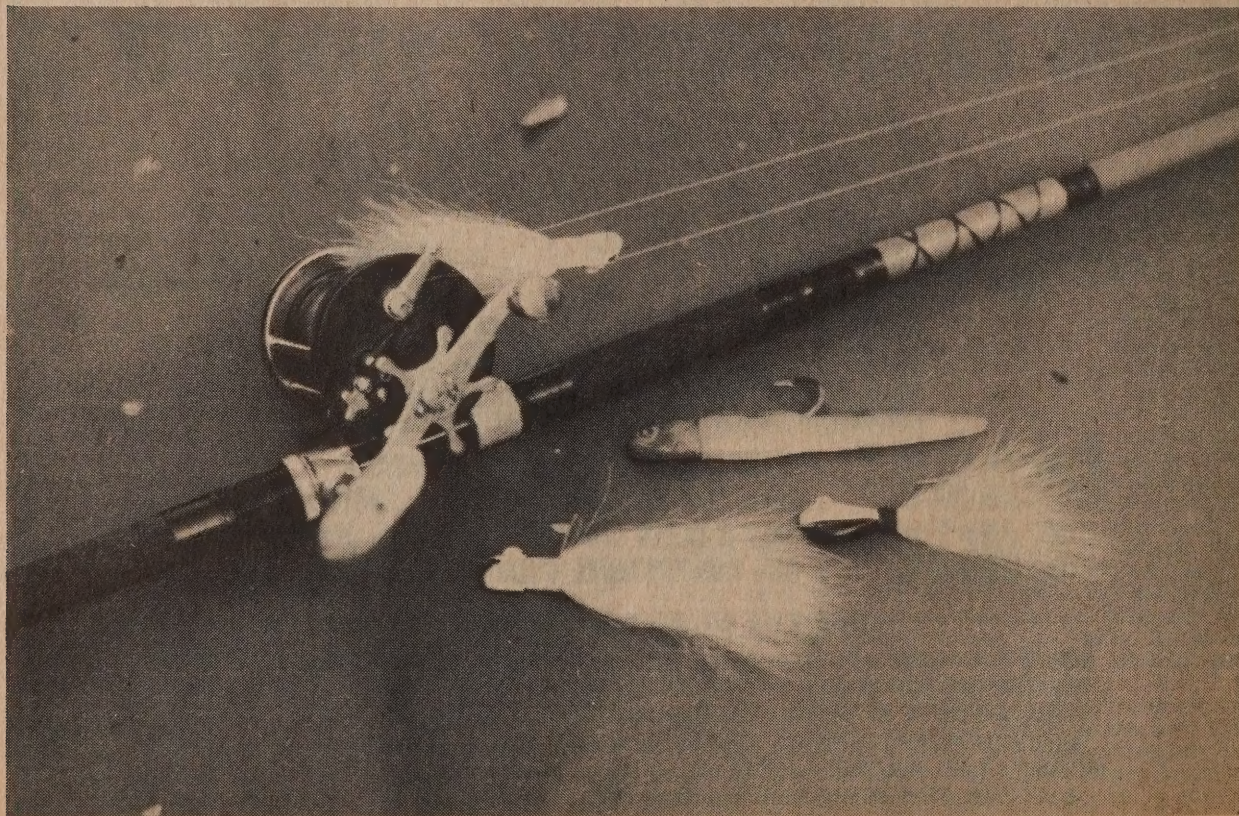
The primary reason I suspect that this classic lure does not have the following it deserves, is because so few anglers take the time to master its use. Working a bucktail is an art. The proper technique is difficult enough to master for boatmen and doubly so for those who ply the surf.

In theory, these jigs should be cast at an angle up-tide and be allowed to sink and swing in the tide. The retrieve should be slow. Reel just fast enough to keep the slack out of your line and include a short, sharp lift of the rod tip for each turn of the handle. The strike most often comes as the lure is completing its swing.

Because you frequently find your tactics in the surf governed by Nature's whims, it is not always possible to find ideal conditions for fishing these lures. They can be effective in still water, such as is often found along the open beach, when permitted to sink and bounced up and down off the bottom during your retrieve. Occasionally, a fast, whip retrieve will draw strikes—particularly if there are any bluefish in the area.

In shallow, boulder-strewn surf such as under Montauk's famed Light, the easternmost stretches of the Point's South Side, and along many sections of the North Shore, the same fast, whip retrieve can be put into play. Under these conditions, always carry a good supply of jigs. Losing a few here and there is part of the game.

Since most of my success with bucktails has come



Lead-heads come equipped with both rubber and hair bodies. Author prefers the latter, but the rubber versions have their moments.



Big stripers are suckers for bucktails worked deep in the swirling currents of inlets.

when applying a slow retrieve, which is not possible in some areas, an alternative method is available. The "splasher rig," very popular down south for sea trout, can be applied very effectively to many situations found here on the Island. It is nothing more than a popping plug stripped of its hooks and trailed by a twenty-four to thirty inch length of thirty pound mono to which is attached a bucktail jig. A lead-head in the neighborhood of 3/8 oz. and equipped with a 3/0 hook seems to work best with this rig. Besides providing casting distance, this setup keeps the jig just above submerged boulders, while the popper also serves as an attention-getter to fish lying down among the rocks. Back in the early Seventies when school bass were still plentiful along our beaches, we took large numbers of fish along Montauk's South Side using this technique.

Don't under-estimate the effectiveness of small jigs on big fish, however. I've taken weaks over ten pounds on the smallest of lead-heads. Well known Montauk charter boat skipper, John DeMaio, regularly takes bass in the twenty to forty pound class each fall on small bucktails cast along the Point's north side. Oftentimes, this action takes place within casting distance of wet-suit clad surfmen.

Lead-heads come in a variety of shapes and sizes. A few of the more popular models include the ballhead, the "Smiling Bill," which is still my favorite, and the slab-sided "Upperman."

Rubber bodied jigs such as the bait-tail have made their mark, but it is still the bucktail-dressed version which remains the standby for hard-core jig fishermen. Personally, I use only natural hair jigs and avoid the many synthetic imitations on the market. The pulsating flow of the real thing is tough to match. Also, I have found that thinly dressed jigs take more fish than those thick with hair. The dressing pulses better, the jig sinks faster and castability is improved because there is less wind

resistance. Commercially made jigs can be thinned by simply pulling out strands of hair with your fingers.

Some anglers will use nothing but free-swinging hooks on their jigs. In theory, this appears to be a sound practice and one which even I have advocated on occasion. The fact of the matter, though, is that I have dropped very few fish on fixed-hook jigs in nearly twenty years of fishing these lures. You make the choice here. I do not really believe it makes any difference.

One mistake I find many casters make when using lead-heads is that they use a snap to connect lure to leader. Tying direct by means of a clinch knot permits direct transmission of any rod tip action to the jig. When a snap is brought into play, some of the hopping or bouncing action is sacrificed. Spend another thirty seconds when changing lures and you'll find the extra effort pays in the long run.

All jig fishermen have their own preferences when it comes to fishing a bucktail plain or with the addition of a strip of pork rind. Some casters will not put a jig in the water without a strip of rind attached. I have taken far more fish on unadorned bucktails than with. I feel both methods imitate baitfish which are abundant in our area. When used with pork rind, the lure is an excellent imitation of a sand eel, spearing, or anchovy. With no dressing, shrimp or small squid are effectively imitated.

There is another successful combination for which I will not even attempt an explanation. The addition of a jellyworm has proven deadly on all of our local game fish, but especially so on weakfish. All I can surmise is that fish, like people, have a sweet tooth, too.

While the humble lead-head may not be the most exciting lure to fish and it does require a little extra effort on your part, it will take fish under a greater variety of circumstances than any other lure on the market today. Add one or two to your surf bag this season. Take the time to appreciate its versatility and learn its use and I'm sure that it will become a frequently used weapon among your arsenal of pet lures.



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Until last week I had no plans for writing this article. I wrote a similar one last year and another two years before that. I figured enough was enough for awhile. But this summer, I've noticed an increase for information concerning shore fishing. I'm sure the high cost of gasoline and related expenses have much to do with this. It has now become necessary for many sinker bouncers to reconsider the fish-producing potential of local fishing areas. And as fluke are the subject of interest to



SINKER BOUNCING

with Matt Ahern

FLUKE FROM SHORE

most of us right now, I'm not surprised shore fishing information regarding these fish should be requested.

So, let's see what we come up with.

One of the nice things about fluke is that fishermen can rely on their seasonal movements. Fluke may not have our Roman calendar to go by, but they know better than we that fall is but a month away. Nature does not throw her creatures of the sea a fast curve as she so often does to we who tread her planet. Therefore, if you want your share of fluke at this time of year, it is best to fish the waters of an ocean inlet instead of the confines of a bay or other sheltered areas. Without question, inlets are the places which will now produce fluke for enterprising fishermen.

I might get some flack about that last statement, but it won't bother this old gray head one bit. I've been chasing fluke for over fifty years and have always found this to be so—and fish do not change their habits. Therefore, I repeat, if you want your share of shore-caught fluke right now, think about inlet fishing.

Fishing some inlet waters can be tough. Tidal conditions may or may not be a problem. Figure they will be stronger than inside sheltered bays, and select your tackle accordingly. Light tackle is best left at home to be on the safe side and medium-weight stuff put to use. Whether you use spinning tackle or conventional gear is a personal choice. A matching reel filled with fifteen or twenty pound mono will do fine.

This heavier line is recommended because some inlets offer a seaweed problem, especially during the middle of a tide: light mono draped with gobs of this stuff will often part, causing loss of riggings—and perhaps a fluke. I lost a pretty nice fluke because of this several years ago while fishing Shinnecock Inlet's west jetty and it near broke my heart because it was the largest I'd hooked in several seasons. Therefore, a word to the wise is certainly sufficient.

Because of possible abnormal tidal conditions, you'll find it best to bring along several sinkers of various weights. I can usually get by with a bank sinker of three ounces; but there have been times—usually during full moon periods—when I've gone to five. And don't forget to pack extras: hooks, leaders, and sinkers. There are inlets where you'll rarely lose a rig, and there are others similar to the aforementioned Shinnecock where if you're fishing in the wrong place, it can be murder on terminal tackle.

Fluke riggings used when shore-fishing around inlets are no different from those used when aboard a skiff or party boat. The standard fluke leader, tied in two inches or so above the sinker, a Carlisle 3/0 or 4/0, or a 4/0 regular-shanked Sproat will do the job. I'm never keen on hardware of any sort when bottom fishing, but using a three-way swivel around inlets isn't a bad idea. A #2 is about right; if you go in for cross-line swivels (not much different from three-way), use a 2/0.

As for bait, there is much selection. I'm sure most fishermen use sand eels and these work very well most



Inlet fishing in Mid-August...



...is usually productive.

times. Spearing is one bait I never get excited about—unless it is fresh. Frozen spearing is simply a nuisance when it thaws—sliding down the hook shank into an unmanageable blob. Squid strips, often in combination with sand eel, are good. Small, live snappers are most likely to produce when all else fails. But these are sometimes difficult to come by while you're concentrating on fluke. I usually get a few kids together, hand them a box of spearing, plus a couple of bucks for the snappers they catch, and the problem is solved. Dead snappers turn the trick, too, if you impart plenty of action when jigging.

From my own experience, I find that sea robin strips seldom fail to produce. I'll fish with any kind of bait until I catch that first sea robin. From then on, as long as those strips last, I know my chances of connecting have improved one hundred percent. Fluke love sea robin bait.

To prepare sea robin is easy. Don't scale. This is most important, for the scales keep the bait supple. It is these little things which mean so much when out there on the grounds. Grasp the sea robin by the head (watch those spines!...they're wicked. Best to wear gloves if this is your first attempt), lay the fish on its side and make a cut slightly aft of the vent to the backbone. Slice along this to the tail and cut off. Repeat on opposite side. Cut each piece through the middle, lengthwise. You will have two dark and two light pieces. Use the light pieces over known mud bottom and the dark slices over sand. Sea robin makes a tough bait, yet it remains supple—if as noted before, you don't scale it. It is not unusual to catch a half-dozen fluke with one bait before it becomes too ragged for further use.

There is only one thing to remember when using strip bait of any kind: it must appear natural! In order to do this, it is important that you hook it only **once** through its widest part. Don't worry if it appears large to you and you think the fish will never get it down far enough to get the hook. It will if you give it enough time. When using these baits, never be over-anxious to set the hook. If you can control your reflexes, which I'll admit is often difficult to do, let the fluke do its own hooking. You'll know when this happens, for the fish will take off with a powerful flirt of its tail, hooking itself.

Many fishermen ask me how I fish for inlet fluke, thinking perhaps that I possess one or two sure-fire, unknown secrets I can share with them. Well, all I can say to that is I have never used any fluke-catching "secrets" which I've refused to share with my fellow fishermen—whether through this column over the years, or by personal relationship. I have never been enchanted by those fishermen who play it close to the vest.

Actually, there is nothing I do to put fluke in my bucket that is unknown to other fishermen who have also studied their fish. Whatever differences that exist are only of minor character. Our overall methods are the same. These methods have been tried and proven for many years—and they will always produce. Remember, fish do not change their habits, else they would have perished along with the dinosaur. So, there are really no "secrets" as we have come to term the word. What is needed in the fishing game is personal knowledge, not another fisherman with "secrets" he doesn't possess. When knowledge is required, the hoped for "secrets" will come. Not before.

Take, for instance, this matter of shore fishing for fluke. It is a tough way to hack it because fishermen are restricted in their efforts. The fluke fisherman who uses a boat can go to the fish, but the guy walking the beach or jetty—while he does go to the fish in a sense—can never cover the amount of territory a boat fisherman can. Only common sense of course, but many shore fishermen do not consider this. They forget that they must make up for the lack of a boat.

But this doesn't mean boat fishermen always outfish those who fish from shore. I can relate scores of instances where just the opposite applied. And most times when this happened, it happened only to those shore fishermen who knew exactly what they were doing every step of the way.

To show there are no "secrets" involved with shore fishing for fluke, I'll describe exactly how I would go about it if I decided to give shore fishing a whirl tomorrow.

It doesn't matter which inlet I may chose to fish; usually this is governed by its availability. I don't run around the countryside thinking the grass is greener in the other guy's territory. It may very well be, but I've found if I have a reliable inlet to fish (a place where I know fluke have been caught), it will pay me to develop its potential to the best of my ability.

The matter of tackle is no problem, but that of bait, is. Therefore, if it is at all possible, I will try to catch several sea robins the day before. If I know my situation is such that I will not be able to do this, I'll be certain I always

have tucked away in the deep freeze several belly strips from spring flounder, mackerel, or whatever. Of course, I can always lay in a supply of squid; but as squid and I have never seen eye-to-eye as fluke bait, I will avoid doing so if I can possibly do so. (There is nothing wrong with squid as fluke bait; this is just one of my fishing quirks asserting itself.)

Most shore fluke fishermen are real early birds—and I'm no exception. Regardless of where I fish, or the distance traveled, I try always to be fishing at daybreak. I believe this may be one of the reasons early birds usually have more success than those fishermen who care not what time they begin the day. I've found it always best to intercept the fish in the first of their hunger.

Nor do I concern myself too much with tide. I think the best tidal phase is two hours before and two hours after high water; but if I don't get it, I don't complain—too much, anyway. I try always to do the best with what I've got going for me.

Where I fish in my chosen locality for fluke is not of too much importance as it would be, let's say, for blackfish. Inlet fluke will prowl the entire area, from the shallows to the deeper parts. The important thing is to keep moving when action is not forthcoming.

I will select an area for myself that looks "fishy," make a cast as far as I possibly can, then slowly jig the bait back by raising the rod a few inches, lowering it, and reeling in the slack. This I repeat for several casts. If there is no action, I will then make fan-like casts until I've covered the immediate area thoroughly. If there is yet no response, I will move farther down or up the line and repeat until I've met with success.

It may take some time before I latch on to that first fish, or I might meet with success on my first cast. I've done the latter many times. But all in all, I believe the fisherman should accept the fact that shore fishing for fluke takes patience. If you've got that, I know you'll catch your share of fluke when fishing from shore.

An awful lot of fishermen do.

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ONE POUND OF PLEASURE

by Andy Regina

Any discussion of the fighting qualities of saltwater fish would definitely not be complete without some mention of a pugnacious panfish that pound for pound—or perhaps ounce for ounce—is considered by some to be the toughest battler of them all.

The scup, or porgy (*Stenotomus chrysops*) is to saltwater fishermen what the bream is to their freshwater brethren: an overly abundant panfish that is very often scorned because of its diminutive size. However, most discerning saltwater anglers know that this lack of size does not detract in any way, shape, or form, from the fierce fighting qualities of this fish, or from its exceptional value as table fare par excellence.

Rather than curse these fish as bait-stealing bottom bandits that may be caught incidentally while fishing for more desirable species, wise anglers scale down their tackle accordingly and seek them out specifically. And actually, fishing specifically for these fish with tackle that does not overpower them readily has opened up a world of piscatorial pleasure that a great many of us find hard to resist.

Ranging the Atlantic Coast from Nova Scotia to Florida, porgies winter in the mid-depths of the offshore Continental Shelf. Spawning takes place in the spring; after which there is a distinct inshore movement into shallower, warmer water. Swarming into bays, estuaries, and sounds in huge schools in the beginning of May, we normally kick off the sport fishing for them at that time in Peconic Bay. This initial run of fish are big ones, running up to three or four pounds. However, it only lasts for a few weeks, whereupon the big fish head out to the deeper waters of Block Island Sound. Replacing these "sea" porgies is a run of smaller fish called "sand" porgies—the largest of which only attain weights of about one pound.

While everyone likes to catch those big porgies, making trips to Montauk or Sheepshead Bay to board

party boats fishing the famous Tin Can Grounds, most of us are perfectly content to enjoy the fun to be had all summer long with the smaller local fish. Long Island Sound plays host to these sand porgies from about mid-June through September or October, depending upon the weather. Some of the better known western Sound porgy spots have been: Center Island Reef, Eaton's Neck, Lloyd's Neck, Mattinecock, the reef behind Execution Light, and most of the points that jut out, such as Sand's, Prospect, and Mott's.

These slab-sided, coarse-scaled, silvery fish love to eat, and their natural diet includes small mollusks and crustaceans, sea worms, small fish, and even a bit of underwater plant life at times. They prefer a bottom of hard-packed sand, but can also be found over gravel, mussel beds, rocks, and wrecks. In fact, some of the largest porgies have been caught off underwater wrecks, where they feed on the barnacles and mussels that cling to that structure, or on the tiny baitfish that are attracted there for the same reason.

Fishing for porgies always presents a challenge, for not only must you locate these fish—which are quite gregarious and may travel in huge schools—but once located, you must keep them interested in your baits as well. Locate them by looking for holding structure described above: clean, hard-packed sand, gravel, mussel beds, or patches of rocks. Once you catch one fish, you can be fairly certain of catching more because of their penchant for traveling in crowds—but you gotta keep 'em interested in your baits or they'll split.

Although by no means shy of baits such as sand or blood worms, grass shrimp, clams, squid, or bits of crab, the porgy is still a very shy critter, prone to disappear at the slightest disturbance. This innate shyness prompts knowledgeable anglers to approach likely areas cautiously. Cut the engine and glide into your approach slowly, set the

anchor as quietly as possible, and keep boat noise to a minimum. Boats barreling through others already engaged in porgy fishing very often put a stop to the action, if not permanently, then at least long enough to prove aggravating. Tools or sinkers clattering on boat decks have also been known to send these shy fish scurrying to quieter places; so try to be careful instead of being clumsy.

Taking porgy shyness one step further, these fish are often wary of the most tempting baits if those baits are presented too close to the boat or on highly visible fishing lines. We attract shy porgies within range of our baits by chumming. Most of the usual chum works well in this case—either ground bunker or ground clams that are dispensed via a chum pot that is kept directly under the boat, or cracked clams or mussels that are scattered nearby. Here the trick is to not chum too heavily so that the fish will seek out your baited hooks rather than get fat dining on free lunch provided by over-zealous hands. A chum pot will provide the mouth-watering essence along with tiny pieces of flesh too small to do anything but whet fish appetites. Shaking that pot by jerking vigorously every five minutes or so on the rope that holds it tied down should accomplish the desired results.

Casting away from the proximity of the boat (about fifteen or twenty feet away is far enough) will very often allow you to catch porgies too shy to approach any closer, but be certain to lower your baits down-current of the chum pot. Your chum slick travels away from you, carried on the current down-stream, so to speak. Any fish enticed into seeking the source of the promised hand-out will naturally swim upstream, prodded on by the increasingly heavier scents and aromas. Place those baited hooks between the fish and the chum pot, and ambush them as they approach the source—that potful of chum directly below.

Using extra-long leaders will fool the line-shy fish. If you make your hook snells about twice the normal length (about eighteen inches should do the trick), and use small hooks, you'll fool 'em every time. Because of their small mouths, and because the fish are not too big anyway, you will naturally catch more fish by using smaller hooks. Do not be afraid to use hooks no larger than #4 Beaks or Sproats; if fish are extremely overcautious, scaling down to #6 or #8 will do the job. Remember that you can always catch large fish with small hooks, if any biggies come your way; but you cannot always catch small fish with large hooks. And remember that we are basically dealing with small fish in the first place.

Just as small fish mouths dictate the use of small hooks, using small hooks dictates employing small pieces of bait. Now this enforced use of small hooks/small bait combo pays off by fitting into small mouths better. Small pieces of sea worms, either sand, blood, or tape, about two or three inches long work well here. Thread one end of the worm onto the hook, around the bend and up the shank—sort of like stringing beads, but stop threading about two-thirds along the way and bring the hook point through the worm body, allowing the remainder of the worm to trail naturally from the bend of the hook. Rigged in this manner, the worm not only looks more natural, but is not bunched-up around the hook point and barb, which are left completely exposed to ensure quicker stickin'!

By the very same token, pieces of clam or strips of squid should also be fairly small and affixed to the hook in the same manner as worms: always with a little bit hanging off and always so that the hook point and barb is left exposed. If you're sharp or lucky enough to procure some grass shrimp, it may very well be the best porgy bait you can use. Hook two or three shrimp behind the head, and let them dangle from the hook bend. Don't forget about that all-important bare point and barb: keep 'em exposed!

Using the lightest mono line you can efficiently operate with, tie a sinker loop at the end and slip a sinker on it. The sinker should be the lightest one that will hold your rig securely on the bottom. All the action will be directly on the bottom and the lightest sinker that can do the job will also allow you to feel more bites than a heavier one. Unlike sinkers used to attract flounder, sinkers here

should NOT be painted bright colors, in deference to the suspicious porgy's shy nature. Tie the loop of one hook snell onto the line via a dropper loop formed about two inches above the sinker, then make a tandem hook rig by tying the snell of a second hook onto the snell of the first hook.

There's no big deal to creating two-hook rigs—otherwise known as tandem and Canarsie rigs. Bend the snell of the first hook in half and slip that through the eye loop of the second hook. Bring the second hook completely through the bent snell of the first one, snell and all, until the second hook eye loop is snugged-up tightly against the bent first hook snell. Finish the rig by tying a simple overhand knot in the snell of the first hook, marrying it to the eye loop of the second hook. Snug that knot up as tightly as you can and those two hooks will always stay apart, as they are meant to do. At this point, a loose knot might see both hooks slide together during the course of the day, negating the effectiveness of the two-hook rig.

Grass shrimp are not sold in bait shops; you must obtain your own by seining. After this hard-to-come-by bait, we rate the bloodworm as second-best porgy bait, followed closely behind by sand worms, then by clams and squid. Try different baits—perhaps bloodworm on one hook and sand worm on the other; or worm on one, clam on the other—or whatever. Tandem rigs not only ensure more bites, but allow you to find out what particular bait is more effective at any given time. Discovering greater acceptance of one bait should alert you to switch the second hook over to that same bait too, thus doubling your potential hook-ups.

From the giddyup, we've been stressing the fact that the sand porgy is small (which it is), but this in no way diminishes the size of its fighting heart. Often amazing even the most experienced angler with the strength and intensity of its determined battle, this lightweight should have been born a heavyweight. To truly enjoy this little guy, use the lightest tackle possible. Light and ultra-light spinning gear is ideal here, and even a light conventional rig is good.

Use the tackle you may feel most comfortable with, and sock those hooks home with authority if you even think you have a bite. You must react superfast to these slick bait-stealers or you'll come up empty every time. Keep all slack out of your line, and try holding the line on your index finger as it comes off the spool, which will heighten your sense of feeling. Get in the habit of striking before the fish bites—so to speak—if you want to catch your fair share of porgies.

Sometimes, when all tried and true methods fail and all proven techniques still leave you talking to yourself, you gotta try something different. If we never experimented, we'd be in one helluva rut, and fishing would soon become boring, or not as challenging as it actually is. This charisma is what proves so fascinating, for if fishing ever became boring, I think I would go nuts!

On those days that you can swear that there just ain't any porgies in the Sound, try drifting instead of anchoring. Sometimes a nice slow drift will quietly bring you over porgies that may not be in a roving mood; so you must then go to the fish if they are not interested in coming to you. Forget that chum, but keep those baits bouncing slowly along and over the bottom. At times, the thought of an escaping meal may trigger sated porgy appetites, and even the most shy nibbler then becomes a tiger, belting your bait with abandon.

If such is not the case, continue drifting, but switch over to lures instead of bait. There are times that porgies pursue small baitfish, so worms or clams could be ignored if, for instance, there is a load of small sand eels around and that is all the fish are feeding on at that moment. Try jigging small diamond jigs or tiny bucktails on the bottom, and see if that turns them on.

Tri-Fin Lures makes a shrimp jig that is dynamite on porgies. Using a quarter-ounce jig tied onto six pound test line and fished on an ultra-light spinning rig, I had the unique privilege of making a believer out of the creator of that lure, Mickey Chiarenza. Perhaps you, too, may become a believer, especially when you catch your share of this fish—this one pound package of pleasure.

INSHORE STATEN ISLAND:

TROLLING WIRE

by Richard Giessuebel

Most guys who fish quite frequently will admit that trolling can become very boring. However, these very same guys will also admit that if you really want to put fish into your boat, then on occasions you're going to have to bore yourself. Add wire line to the scene, and not only is trolling boring—but it now becomes downright work. That is, since you've got to keep the boat moving slightly forward after the strike in order to keep the unstruck rigs up off the bottom until you can reel 'em in, and since you want to make certain that there's always tension on the wire line that you're using so that kinks don't develop in it, the drag put onto the wire line and rig makes it very difficult to simply reel them in and get them out of the way. Also, the pole with the fish on it is much harder to reel in while all of this is going on. Again, the bottom line is work. The end result, however, is fish. Therefore, guys like myself who would much rather chum or jig find that on occasions, trolling with wire line is the only ticket and if you want to succeed, then you're going to have to know how to use that ticket. In this article, I'll get into just how to go about using wire line, how to rig up, and I'll describe certain strategies that are used with wire to help you put fish in your boat.

There are two main weights of wire used. Either you fish with thirty or forty pound test wire. I, of course, use both because I find certain advantages to each. I'd much

recommend that you use forty pound Monel, but if you're into weakfish, then thirty pound wire will suit you well in that it carries single tubes much deeper than the forty pound line—that is, if you are fishing equal lengths of it. Since I like to use shorter sections of wire line, I opt often for the thirty pound test material.

Now, let's say that you're using forty pound test wire. Some of the other things that you're going to have to know are at what speeds will your line get down to what depths. These are important facts since you're using the line primarily to get your lure **down** to where the fish are. The rule of thumb that we use here is that when your lure is working right, or between 800-1200 RPM depending upon current, about fifty feet of wire will get you down five feet. So, following this scheme, if you had to get down to let's say fifty feet, you'd have to use five hundred feet of wire. This isn't necessarily correct in that once you've got four hundred feet of wire or so out, the lift imparted on the wire by the forward motion of the boat actually brings your lure up in the water. Therefore, what we do is to add a weight called a "drail" ahead of the lure that we are using. This drail is actually a trolling weight and will effectively hold a lure down where it can score on fish.

Using the drail method, you could expect to get a single tube down to fifty feet by using four hundred feet of wire and about six to eight ounces of lead ahead of the lure. However, I'm just using these figures to show you how to calculate the length of wire required to fish at various depths. I wouldn't recommend, and I never try to get my wire down any deeper than thirty-five feet where I use 250' to 300' of wire and a drail of between six to eight ounces. My most preferred lengths of wire are 110' and 150' sections. The 110' sections are used to troll in bays and along beaches; while the 150' sections are used to troll a little further offshore.

Before I mentioned that in order to get down so many feet, you should be traveling at a certain RPM. Well, let's explain this in more detail now. First of all, it only stands to reason, that if you wanted to bring your lines up, all you'd have to do is to increase your speed. Therefore, you just can't troll at any speed. Also, should you always troll at a certain RPM, then wouldn't you be moving much faster if you were going with the current, than if you were going against it? True; so therefore, depending upon strength and direction of currents in direct contrast to the RPM and direction of your boat, you have got to adjust the RPM to suit the other conditions in order to keep your lure working effectively and at the depth you require.

I know that there's a lot to swallow there, but if you do what I do, you'll never have any problem, and you'll very infrequently have to know the exact RPMs at which you're operating. The method is to quite simply just drop back your lure several feet behind the boat and watch. Then, adjust the speed of the boat so that the lures perform properly.

For swimming plugs, you should want them to be moving from side to side. They'll appear to be vibrating if they're moving right. Check your RPM's now, and hold at that! Then, should you want to speed up to make a turn, then all you'll have to do is to either get right on back to that speed, or to bring them on in so that you can check for any speed changes, since you may be going in a new direction.

For surgical tubes, I like to have the tubing swaying from side to side, rather than spinning. Should my tube



Rich Giessuebel, Don and Al Marantz, and Bob Andrews show off what trolling with wire can do for you. Bob is holding a 42 pounder.

keep spinning—which you will often find to be the case—I work on straightening the tube out and changing the built-in bend in the tube, until I get it swaying.

For bunker spoons, you don't actually have to watch the lure behind the boat. What you should watch is your long and fairly flexible trolling pole which should be jumping backwards and forwards as the spoon catches the water and moves up and down and in and out. If the pole isn't working at all, you're probably going too slow. If the pole is making big digs and then going straight, you're probably going too fast. What the pole's got to do is work up and down constantly and then you can be pretty certain that it's working right.

For umbrella and gorilla rigs, I again view the rigs as I swing them into the water. I make certain that there aren't any tangles; that all the teasers are moving and that the trail lure isn't spinning. Then, I drop the rigs back.

For all of the above lures, make certain that you make yourself familiar with the way the pole reacts with the lures all the way out in place. Then, should anything happen to break this pattern, reel in and see what's up. Usually you'll find that either the lure has fouled itself up, or that it's caught something that it wasn't intended to catch, such as some seaweed or a plastic bag or something. Should you not be quick to see this happen, you'll run the risk of trolling right on through a school of feeding fish that'll stick their noses up at your very unfamiliar offering.

One last thing that we usually troll is either a bucktail or a bucktail chain. Here, adjust your speed so that the lure is coming straight on through the water. You can impart the jigging motion into the lure simply by pulling your pole forward and then by quickly releasing the tension by pointing your pole directly backward. A second way to accomplish this is to get a good hold on your DACRON backing. Then, with the pole in its holder, simply pull and release the tension—without letting go—on this line. Both methods will cause the bucktail to rise and fall as it comes through the water. Remember while fishing this way to use a fairly stiff pole so that the impulse you're sending down the line reaches the lure and isn't instead absorbed by the flexible bend of a less than rigid pole.

Well, that's about it as to lures and lengths of wire; however, there's still an awful lot to cover. For instance, should you troll often, you're going to have to change the knots used to hold your entire rig together. If you don't—then good-bye rig! For, you see, the saltwater and the sand below are **very** abrasive. Therefore, it's only a matter of time until they weaken your line and knots to the point where they won't work. Experience has taught me this fact, and believe me, it's been quite a costly lesson. So, whenever you're going out, make certain to change all of your knots.

Another thing you should know is, wire just doesn't tie directly to monofilament. And, in fact, monofilament stretches, making it a very poor connector in your overall system. Therefore, what we do to save some money, is to use the rather inexpensive mono to fill the majority of our trolling spoons. Then, using a double blood knot, we attach the new fifty pound test Dacron to our rig. I use about twenty-five yards of this line. Now, I tie a 100 lb. test black barrel swivel to the Dacron to which I connect my wire line by double-looping the line through the swivel and then wrapping it around the wire for about ten good turns. Then I snip it off very close to the wire itself. Now, I stretch out the length of wire that I want; this is where you can actually measure the exact amount of wire that you're using, and then attach another barrel swivel in the 100 lb. class.

From this point on, I use different lengths of leaders for different things. However, it would be safe to say that ten to fifteen feet of between thirty to sixty pound test leader would suffice. I attach the leader to the swivel using a palomar knot. Then, at the end of the length of leader, I use a Sampo Coastlock 100 lb. plus swivel.

All these swivels might sound like a bit too much for you, but let me remind you: get a big fish on your rig, combine his weight with speed of the boat going forward and you should be able to see that there's quite a large

amount of weight coming into play. Therefore, take precautions during the rigging stages and you won't be disappointed by losing a trophy later.

If you're going to use a drail, where you do you intend to hook it into your system? Well, for umbrella and gorilla rigs, put the weight right in front of the rig. This will really pull the rig down and help to keep it down while you're moving. For all other lures, I place the drail between my leader and the wire line. This tends to pull the line down, but allows the lure to operate correctly. If fishing in this manner though, you've got to bring the fish to gaff by hand. This means that once the angler has the drail at the end of his pole, he must back up in the boat, while his partner grabs the line and leads the fish into the gaff. For big fish, a good pair of gloves is a must for this operation. Also, if the fish is small enough, the gloves will come in handy slinging that fish over the rail without the aid of the gaff.

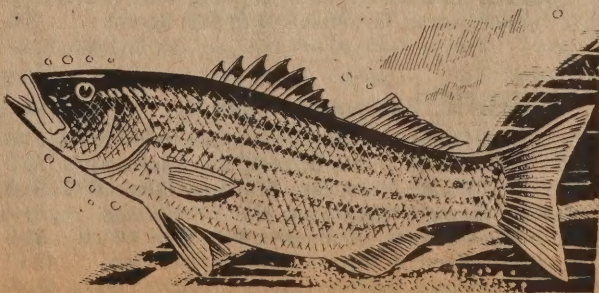
Now, let's get into several things you should do to help you put fish into the boat. First of all, know where you're going to fish. Then, check out water depths in these areas and prepare yourself to fish at these depths. If you're not up on what's being caught, call a tackle shop and see if the proprietor can't get you into fish. John at J.F.'s Tackle Shop in Staten Island usually monitors the CBs; so he stays pretty much abreast of conditions in the Raritan Bay. He's also on top of fishing reports that indicate which species is being caught, where. This information, plus all the equipment you will need to troll makes J.F.'s an important stop; or call either the morning or the evening before getting out there.

Now, once you've prepared for the locale you're going to fish, plan the headings you are going to travel. Through this maneuver, you'll be able to recall quickly exactly how to get back to the spot that has just either given up a good hit or a good fish. Also, at the time of the action, look down at your tach and find the speed you were at. Check the course, too, then bring it around to the same heading and speed and make another pass.

Make certain that when turning you increase your speed. This will pull your lures up in the water, where the tendency in the turn is to allow the lures to fall where they often foul up on the bottom. By noticing your speed, you'll be able to get back on the exact line and get back at the same speed that produced the initial hit. This is so important, because often guys get back where they're going, but they change something else—like speed or length of line, and when they do, they don't get the second fish or hit.

Finally, realize that in order to adjust the depth of your lure, we adhere to several patterns. One pattern is to allow all the Dacron out so that the wire is just visible at the top of the water. This gives us our planned depth. Should we be bumping bottom, then we'll pull the wire up out of the water so that the barrel swivel is halfway between the water and the pole's tip. Still a third place is to bring the swivel right on up to the tip, but keep the Dacron running through the tip. This decreases the wear on the tip. Through these practices, you'll be able to talk to other boats and compare exactly where they are fishing and getting hits.

Well, I'd like to go on, but I'm afraid that I've given you too much to contemplate already. Remember, trolling wire can be very rewarding if done right. It can get you into fish that are down deep and it allows you to fish many different types of lures. So, get to it and plan a trip. Good fishing!



The Current Standings in The FISHERMAN's SKILLFUL ANGLING AWARDS

AS OF 7/1/80

FLOUNDER (Minimum Weight: 2-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. David J. Cosgrove, York, Pa.; *Murray's B&T* 3-6
24. Bonnie Smith, Fort Myer, Va.; *Murray's B&T* 3-6
23. Bud Bentsen, Brooklyn, N.Y.; *Gone Fishing* 3-4
22. Jeanetta Botterbusch, York, Pa.; *Murray's B&T* ... 3-1
21. Albert Randazzo, West Islip, N.Y.; *Smokey's* 2-12
20. Bob Harder, Westbury, N.Y.; *Speck's Tackle* 2-11
19. Howard Kiedaisch, Massapequa, N.Y.; *Comb's* 2-9
18. Peter Rabczewski, Brentwood, N.Y.; *Smokey's* ... 2-6
17. Lorraine Kiedaisch, Massapequa, N.Y.; *Comb's* ... 2-2
16. Bob Harder, Westbury, N.Y.; *Speck's B&T* 2-1
15. Barbara Loeffler, Brentwood, N.Y.; *Smokey's* 2-0

BLACKFISH (Minimum Weight: 5-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Maurice Butler, Willimantic, Ct.; *Hillyer's B&T* ... 11-8
24. Andrew Zaharia, N.Y.; *Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop* ... 8-13
23. Bob Grastataro, Huntington, N.Y.; *Captree Bait* ... 8-2
22. George Vujtech, Selden, N.Y.; *Angler's Den* 7-12
21. Louis A. Fenza, E. Northport, N.Y.; *Angler's Den* .. 7-9
20. John White, Uniondale, N.Y.; *Captree Bait Sta.* ... 7-8
19. Michael Stewart, Huntington, N.Y.; *Four Winds* ... 7-4
18. Louis A. Fenza, E. Northport, N.Y.; *Four Winds* .. 6-12
17. Alfred Brissette, Woonsocket, R.I.; *Edgar's* 6-9
16. Michael Batista, Bronx, N.Y.; *Jack's Tackle* 6-8
15. Jim Kelly, Middle Village, N.Y.; *Jack's Tackle* 5-4

COD (Minimum Weight: 30-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Walter Kopacz, Shrewsbury, Mass.; *Hilton Mar.* ... 66-2
24. Bill Eiserman, Newburyport, Mass.; *Hilton Mar.* ... 57-0
23. Porfio Matos, Lawrence, Mass.; *Hilton Mar.* 51-8
22. Harry Misunas, Watertown, Conn.; *Yankee Flt.* ... 42-4

PORGY (Minimum Weight: 3-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

NO ENTRIES RECEIVED.

SEABASS (Minimum Weight: 3-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Manuel Frias, Taunton, Mass.; *Westport Seafood* 8-8
24. John Hill, Bronx, N.Y.; *Gone Fishing Marina* 6-12
23. Andy Pollio, Elmont, N.Y.; *Scotty's Marina* 6-8
22. Howard Langelott, Ridgewood, NY; *Stella Maris* 4-14
21. Helmut Blechstein, Tuckerton, N.J.; *Ace's Place* 3-12
20. Jeffrey Hames, Commack, N.Y.; *J&R Sports* 3-8

STRIPER (Minimum Weight: 30) LBS./OZ.

25. John Baldino, Norwalk, Conn.; *Fish Unlmt. Taxi* 71-0
24. Joe Gianturco, Valley Stream, N.Y.; *Beckmann's* 58-0
23. Carl C. Russo, Hunt. Sta., N.Y.; *Four Winds B&T* 54-8
22. Jim Bregman, Huntington, N.Y.; *Four Winds* 51-6
21. James Wulforst, Huntington, N.Y.; *Four Winds* .. 50-0
20. John Columbus, Hauppauge; *Angler's Den* 49-12
19. Richard Bord, Fairless Hills, Pa.; *Giglio's B&T* .. 48-10

18. John Gianturco, Valley Stream; *Seaman's B&T* .. 45-6
17. Patricia Bord, Fairless Hills, Pa.; *Giglio's B&T* ... 44-6
16. Scott Jaeggi, Huntington, NY; *Ronnie's B&T* 37-0
15. David D. Curti, Valley Stream, NY; *Skippy's B&T* 36-4
14. Ken Kluck, Woonsocket, R.I.; *Ocean House* 34-11
13. Ken Kluck, Woonsocket, R.I.; *Ocean House* 33-12
12. Henry Rauer, Jr., Plainfield, N.J.; *Giglio's B&T* .. 32-10
11. Jim Wulforst, Huntington, NY; *Four Winds B&T* 32-0
10. Dick Deasy, Huntington, NY; *Four Winds B&T* ... 31-8
9. Ted Preftes, Yonkers, NY; *Stella Maris Tackle* ... 31-0
8. Tom Olivia, Willston Park, NY; *Four Winds B&T* 30-8
7. Leonard Katz, Lindenhurst, NY; *Captree Bait* ... 24-10

BLUEFISH (Minimum Weight: 15-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Dorothea Kohlhaas, Old Bethpage; *Ch'bl Adios* ... 16-7
24. Richard Yonkers, Bethpage, N.Y.; *Ch'bl Adios* 16-5
23. Richard Yonkers, Bethpage, N.Y.; *Ch'bl Adios* 16-0
22. Bill Clendenon, Gulfport, Fla.; *Ch'bl Adios* 15-6
21. Therese Clendenon, Gulfport, Fla.; *Ch'bl Adios* ... 15-5
20. Otto Kohlhaas, Old Bethpage, N.Y.; *Ch'bl Adios* ... 15-3
19. George Merrit, Garden City, N.Y.; *Ch'bl Adios* ... 15-0
18. Michael Flynn, Brick Town, N.J.; *Pt. Pleasant* ... 14-6

WEAKFISH (Minimum Weight: 10-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Ed Charmack, Miller Place, NY; *Angler's Den* .. 15-12
24. James Markey Jr., Port. Jeff Sta., NY; *Ang. Den* . 14-2
23. Marianne Piemonte, Phoenix, Ariz.; *Ch'bl ADIOS* .. 14-2
22. Tony Kevel, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY; *Ang. Den.* ... 12-0
21. Eusebio Gonzalez, Queens, NY; *Charboat ADIOS* ... 12-0
20. Anthony Taverna, Stony Brook, NY; *Ang. Den* .. 11-12
19. Bobbie Montgomery, Coatesville, Pa.; *Murray's* 11-11
18. Joe Daniels, Selden, NY; *Angler's Den* 11-8
17. Jim Algeria, Selden, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-15
16. H.W. Hammersmith, Marlton, NJ; *Fisherman* ... 10-13
15. Bob DeMarco, Miller Place, NY; *Angler's Den* .. 10-13
14. Clyde Jones, Forest Hills, NY; *Shooters & Ang.* 10-12
13. Albert Randazzo, West Islip, NY; *Smokey's B&T* 10-12
12. Jack Lennon, Selden, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-12
11. Amy Freewald, Flushing, NY; *Merrick Tackle* ... 10-12
10. Russell Giannotti, Selden, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-9
9. John Paganas, Queens, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-9
8. Bill Mussoroffiti, Selden, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-8
7. Mark Elf, Medford, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-8
6. Antanas Zorkas, Great Neck, NY; *Angler's Den* .. 10-7
5. Mark Hansen, Middle Island, NY; *Angler's Den* .. 10-7
4. Corey May, Selden, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-6
3. Rich McGirl, Phila., Pa.; *Jim's Tackle Shop* 10-6
2. Fred Kaye, Centereach, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-5
1. Jim Butler, Oakdale, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-4
0. Howard Boyer, Ocean View, Dela.; *Murray's B&T* 10-3
0. Peter Zorkas, Port Washington; *Angler's Den* .. 10-3
0. Charlie Meyer, Coram, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-3
0. Albert Pirro, Coram, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-3
0. John Columbus, Hauppauge, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-3
0. Robert Dandrea, Queens, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-3

0. Lorry Mangan, Terryville, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-0
 0. Norm Copen, Selden, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-0
 0. Kevin Markey, Port. Jeff. Sta., NY; *Angler's Den* . 10-0
 0. Michael N. Fusco, Lake Grove, NY; *Angler's Den* 10-0

POLLACK (Minimum Weight: 20-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Dolores Schmitt, Woodbury, NY; *Four Winds* . . . 24-2
 24. Bob Kurtz, Valley Stream, NY; *Merrick Tackle* . . 20-14

FLUKE (Minimum Weight: 6-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Ralph Francotson, Holbrook, NY; *Captree Bait* . . 15-0
 24. Eloise Arnel, Westbury, NY; *Star Island Yt. Club* . . 9-8
 23. Nick Matzkie, Montauk, NY; *Star Island Yt. Club* . . 9-4
 22. Clarence Jackson, Wakefield, R.I.; *Ocean House* . 9-2
 21. Jeffrey Morton, Voluntown, Ct.; *Spicer's Marina* . . 9-2
 20. Mitchell Modell, Montauk, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . . . 8-4
 19. George Guida, Lynbrook, NY; *Captree Bait Sta.* . . 8-2
 18. Keith Flynn, Hampton Bays, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . 8-0
 17. John Groveman, Montauk, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . . 8-0
 16. Jerry Carlo, Astoria, NY; *Gone Fishing Marina* . . . 8-0
 15. Richard Siedzik, New Britain, Ct.; *Hillyer's B&T* . . 7-9
 14. Keith Flynn, Hampton Bays, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . 7-4
 13. Elaine Parente, N. Providence, R.I.; *Top of Dock* . . 6-8
 12. Tom LaCarrubba, Ronkonkoma, NY; *L&M Marine*. 6-7
 11. Tom Glorioso, Brooklyn, NY; *Ed's Fishing Sta.* . . . 6-0
 10. Joseph Spitaleri, Queens, NY; *Captree Bait Sta.* . . 5-1

BLUEFIN (Minimum Weight: 300-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Frank Menenduz, Forest Hills, Ny; *Tuma's B&T* 306-0

BLUE SHARK (Minimum Wt: 150-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. John Villanova, Montauk, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . . 385-0
 24. Chris Ryan, Glen Head, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . . . 295-0
 22. Vinny Carillo, Huntington, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . . 155-0

MAKO SHARK (Minimum Wt: 200-lbs) LBS./OZ.

25. Lou Rosado, Hempstead, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . . 455-0
 24. Gary Brady, Forest Hills, NY; *Tuma's Tackle* 305
 23. Steve Babitz, Montauk, NY; *Star Island Y.C.* . . . 285-0
 22. Dick Mendelson, Roslyn, NY; *Charvin Fish. Sta.* 270-8
 21. Steve Daradoff, Huntington, NY; *Star Island YC* 263-0
 20. Alex Baranonsky, Bay Shore, NY; *Star Is. YC.* . . . 207-0
 19. Howard Glickberg, N.Y., N.Y.; *Star Island YC* . . . 202-0

WHITE MARLIN (Min. Wt: 65-lbs.) LBS./OZ.

25. Dave Kohlus, Montauk, NY; *Tumas Tackle* 85-0
 24. Jack Caruso, Cloister, N.J.; *Charterboat ADIOS* 80-0
 23. Mark Whittaker, Montauk, NY; *Star Island YC* . . . 68-0

SWORDFISH (Minimum Wt: None) LBS./OZ.

25. Mike Carlson, Montauk, N.Y.; *Star Island Y.C.* . . 343-0

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LONG BEACH—	Long Beach Marina (516) 889-7910
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JAMAICA BAY—	Crossbay Rod & Gun . . . (212) 835-1018 Canarsie Tackle (212) 763-6365
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NORTHPORT—	Bowman's Sport Gds. . . . (516) 261-6611
HUNTINGTON—	Four Winds B&T (516) 421-1184 Ronnie's B&T (516) 549-9410
GLEN COVE—	Glen Cove Sports (516) 676-7120
CITY ISLAND—	Jack's Bait & Tackle . . . (212) 885-2042 City Island B&T (212) 885-2153

UMBRELLA RIGS — Basics and Innovations

by Einar "Doc" Grell

If there is any single weapon in a fisherman's tackle arsenal which has accounted for a maximum catch on any given day, it has to be the multiple-lure umbrella rig. For those who love or tolerate the contraption, there is no question about it: the rig does catch fish and oftentimes gives the inexperienced angler the opportunity to eat fish when most probably he would draw a blank after a day's fishing were he forced to employ more sophisticated techniques. Yet there are many umbrella users who score low with a rig geared to maximum catch. Dragging wire and umbrella rigs around is just not as easy as it looks. There are many skills involved in getting the most out of these contraptions, and there are endless innovations possible.

One of the most effective umbrellas designed for catching striped bass, bluefish, weakfish and pollack, has to be that developed by Captain John Sekora of the Montauk party boat "Easy Rider." Other types do exist and many anglers make their own. I was first introduced to this "killer" rig in the Fall of 1969 at Montauk when on a particular day, after jigging bucktails rather unsuccessfully for four hours, I observed a friendly angler pulling in at one time, two bluefish and two striped bass. At the same time, my rod bent over and I caught a twenty pound striper on my trolled white bucktail.

I proceeded to follow this "mystery" man, when lo and behold, within five minutes Captain Marvel had caught a triple header consisting of two bluefish and one striper. How can this be? What the devil is he using? I had witnessed within a fifteen minute time interval a catch of seven fish. This was indeed phenomenal. Returning to the dock, I eagerly approached this angler and inquired as to what kind of magic he was employing off Montauk Light. He showed me my first umbrella rig with its piano wire spreader and multiple surge tubes approximately four inches in length; amber in color. My first impression of the rig was that it was some type of device used for dragging up from the bottom drowning victims who had fallen through the ice in New Hampshire. I had seen something similar in my youth and the device on first impression appeared sinister. Do bait fish look like these tubes underwater? I quickly ran over to Cove Marina and purchased two of these piscatorial monstrosities. I immediately returned to my twenty foot skiff, cranked up my motor and headed for Shagwong Reef. I couldn't wait to drop this rig into the water and become Captain Marvel. Within minutes of dropping this rig into the water, I snagged "Garrison belt" kelp and lost the rig...\$10 down the tube with no fish. It was obvious that simply heaving this rig into the mouths of my finny friends was not quite as easy as it had appeared to me as an observer of my friend an hour before. Many subtleties about dragging this contraption around were now becoming quite obvious and not so subtle. Losing these rigs could become a very expensive proposition if you don't know what you are doing.

First, when this rig hits the bottom (my friend stated that for bass you must be just above the bottom for best results), it is imperative that you quickly reel in a few feet

of wire, otherwise I would again be into harvesting kelp. Until you have reeled in several feet of impaled kelp 200' behind your boat, you really don't know what work is. I now know why some of my weak-wristed friends hate wire. My first encounters with irregular bottoms immediately motivated me to purchase a paper machine so that I had more than a vague idea of how much wire to let out. These bottom encounters informed me that I had to mark my wire at one hundred foot intervals with red, white and blue vinyl tape since I was a patriotic and beginning wire dragger. Even with the purchase of a depth meter and my marked wire, I was still having problems with the one hundred feet of wire to ten foot sink ratio, which is more or less the rule of thumb for dragging wire around. Supposedly, and in theory, you let out one hundred feet of wire—your lures are now being trolled at depths of ten feet. This is pure theory and the sink ratio of wire has to be relative to something. The missing factor is speed of troll. I need to know how fast I'm going or what my engine RPMs are.

My next purchase for my outboard was a tachometer. After a week's time using depth meter, marked wire, and my tachometer, I was getting pretty good at catching fish via umbrella rigs. At any given spot, I knew exactly the depth of water, how much wire I had out and my engine RPM. These three basics cannot be over-emphasized and are part and parcel of maximum catch with these rigs. When I am fishing with my thirteen foot Whaler and small outboard motor minus tachometer, it is a question of hitting the bottom and cranking in a few turns. I also constantly study and memorize charts for the area and try to envision what the bottom configuration looks like. When fish are caught just off the bottom, it is obvious that your lures must be there. If you troll without a depth meter, this is what you must do. Speed of the boat must be estimated. You will get a feel for the correct speed sooner or later. If it is later and you never seem to know the right speed for your troll, you had better purchase a tachometer.

Montauk Point, Shagwong, Mt. Misery Shoals off Port Jefferson, Fire Island Lighthouse in the Bay and Democrat Point, Fire Island have their bottoms paved with broken off umbrella rigs owing to lack of umbrella use basics. In the Fire Island Inlet area, I could open up a store with the number of umbrella rigs I have extricated from cables, riprap, sunken tires—you name it. Many of these rigs are almost new...right out of Captain Sekora's plastic bag.

Recovered rigs indicate kinked wire, under-test shock leaders of thirty to forty pound test, while lures are attached to umbrellas by way of eighty pound test leaders, under-sized barrel swivels, poor haywire twists for joining two pieces of wire—you name it. I still can't figure out why an angler ties surge tubes to his umbrella spreader with 80 lb. test mono while his shock leader is only that of 40 lb. test. A hang-up with the bottom should enable the angler to salvage his umbrella rig with the loss of one or two tubes at best. He should never lose his entire rig, which happens again and again with the inexperienced.

One cannot over-emphasize the importance of

keeping wire unkinked throughout its length. There is nothing worse than catching a large bass or weakfish on 350' of wire only to have the wire break as you set the hook. If this occurs, you probably have experienced a \$15 to \$20 loss which includes the price of at least 100 yards of wire, swivels and the umbrella rig itself. If you have developed a truly exotic "killer rig" with innovative wedges, spinners, extra teasers you could easily have lost \$25 worth of rig. Constantly examine parts of your terminal tackle: where the umbrella rig is attached to mono leader, where mono leader is attached to wire via barrel swivels, parts where you may have joined two sections of wire together, and the leaders attaching the lures to the spreader. If you are catching bluefish as well as weakfish, you must remember that bluefish may fray tube leaders and wire. The slightest nick in your mono leader or a simple overhand kink in your wire (even when you straighten out the wire—you think) spells disaster for your rig SOONER than later. Bluefish, in particular, raise havoc with all parts of your rig, especially when you throw two or three of them in a large barrel. Their writhing, thrashing and chomping teeth cut through mono like melted butter. Also watch out for flying hooks, flashing teeth, and, of course, your fingers. Weakfish and striped bass produce no great biting problems when caught.

When trolling with wire I use nothing but a Penn 4/0 reel—113H, to be exact. This is a reel with great durability. I have used Penn 500s, Penn 3/0s and others smaller in size. They just simply do not hold up to the extreme pressures and compressions placed upon them by surging bluefish, heavy stripers, or multiple catches not excluding occasional battles with the bottom.

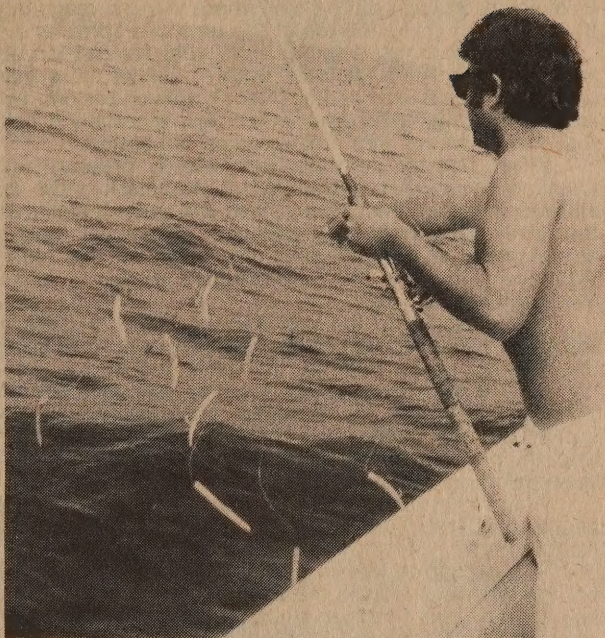
Only once in my lifetime did I accomplish the Montauk "hat trick" which consisted of catching four different species of fish at the same time on a four trolled tube Sekora umbrella. I was leaving Montauk Point for Fire Island Inlet on November 14, 1969—the last trip of the season. While taking my last troll with wire line around Montauk Light, I caught a 12 lb. bluefish, a 15 lb. striper, a frisky 7 lb. codfish (even small cod hit umbrella rigs) and a 9 lb. pollack. Both my father and I were truly amazed at what came out of the water attached to the umbrella on that day. The total weight of the variety caught came to 43 lbs. The "hat trick" culminated the 1969 season. I will never forget it. If it were not for the Penn 4/0, 80 lb. shock leader, strong barrel swivels and non-kinked wire, the feat would never have been accomplished.

Keeping the wire level on the reel at all times is another must. There is no better way to kink wire than to allow it to be cranked in on one spot on the reel—a no-no known as balling the wire. Mates on party boats and private charter constantly berate paying customers for this bad habit, constantly advising "crank in steadily and evenly; look what is happening to the reel."

Line which is balled on a reel can raise havoc to wire when it is being let out again. Never free spool balled up wire. The practice is lethal on wire. A free spinning spool can produce a wired nightmare tangle. Smart wire men pull out the wire with the clicker on with slight pressure on the star drag assembly so that the wire does not spin out wildly. If you can free spool the wire out with your hand by applying reel pressure with your thumb, do so, but by all means make sure that where wire is joined to swivels, wire to wire, etc., that all connections are burr free, otherwise you will experience a ripped thumb. All junction points involving wire should be neat and smooth, otherwise you will need to use your medical tackle box.

If you are trolling two umbrella rigs, make sure that there is distance between both rigs. Pole holders should be set at angles allowing for the greatest distance between trolled rigs—especially on small boats. It is amazing how close together two umbrella rigs are when they are trolled off a ten foot beam boat 250' behind. Would you believe almost on top of each other. If you could look into the water and see this situation, you would see why it is so important to make very gradual turns with your boat when you change trolling ranges. When trolling two umbrella rigs at the same time, I would not set each back at the same distance. I would stagger distances, setting one at 100'

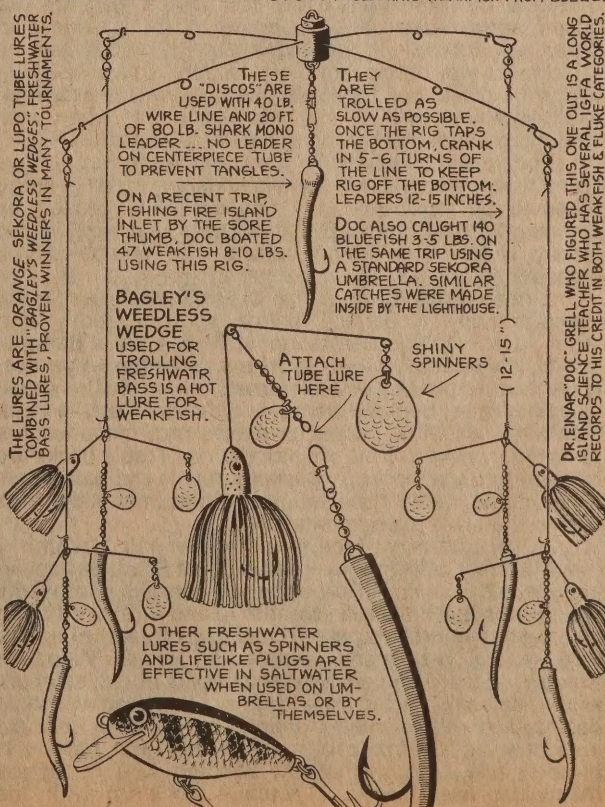
(Continued on next page.)



Umbrella rigs should be swung smoothly into and out of the water to avoid tangles. Note: This angler uses ten tube umbrella to simulate sand eel school.

Photo by Dr. W.A. Muller

A DOC GRELL ORIGINAL "DISCO KILLER UMBRELLA RIG" ONE OF SEVERAL UMBRELLAS DESIGNED BY DOC TO SEPERATE WEAKFISH FROM BLUEFISH.



and the other at 250'

If rigs become tangled and kinks occur, it is imperative that overhand kinks be cut out of the wire and wire refastened by way of haywire twists or by inserting a barrel swivel between line pieces. Remember, barrel swivels must be of a size that allow for cranking wire through the guides. The same rule applies for the forward section of the mono shock leader of fifteen to twenty feet. The swivel must accommodate cranking in the leader through the guides to the point where you can reach into the water and grasp the top of the umbrella spreader.

The inexperienced should troll with one rod for the simple reason that a two rod "go off" will be more than one pair of hands can handle. Over an uneven bottom, two rod trolling could spell disaster for rigs, especially if both rods have terminal tackle hang up on the bottom.

When fish hit umbrella rigs, steady pressure and cranking in is the "watchword." No slack must be allowed, for oftentimes hooked fish will swim faster than the retrieve and cross over the wire, making for tangles and chopped off rigs. Bluefish are noted for this habit. When you think that fish have dropped off the rig, crank even faster.

As fish approach the boat and you begin to crank in the mono leader through the guides, be prepared to grasp the top part of the umbrella spreader and in one even, non-jerky motion, sweep the fish into your bait box for disengaging. **Do not, by all means,** grasp shock leader or individual surge tubes. You could get a bad mono burn from the pressure of fighting fish. You could also snap off your entire rig and catch.

Watch out for snapping fish in bait box. Better to have another rig ready and re-attach, than to attempt hook disgorging from thrashing fish and flying hooks in a bait box or large barrel. Horrible hook impalements and bites occur on the boat—not in the water. So beware. It is not a bad idea to wear a leather glove on the hand with which you grasp the top of the umbrella rig. It allows a margin of safety for the bluefish, who still doesn't believe he's captured.

Innovative Umbrella Rigs for Hard-to-Catch Fish Days.

One of the nice features of the basic stainless steel umbrella wire spreader is the fact that if fish are not hitting surge tubes on a given day, there is almost an unlimited number of lure combinations which can be attached by way of one foot mono leaders. One only has to check his tackle box for lures which have this potential. Many lures which have low fish catchability when used singly are quite deadly when used in combination.

For catching weakfish in the Great South Bay, I have found that the addition of shiny spinners in front of surge tubes to be most effective. Orange tubes headed by spinners is most productive. It appears that weakfish in cloudy waters love shiny objects and orange-colored objects.

I have substituted surge tubes with Seven Strand Psychosquids (100 series), 3/4 oz. shiny-headed Tri-Fin Jig'n Tails, Hopkins Hammertails, Bagley Balsa Bang-O-Lures, small Rebel swimmer plugs, Weedless Wedges, small Acetta spoons, Rat Fink torpedo plugs, Switch Blade weedless lures, Bagley Submarine Shad and Tru Life three inch minnows with success on twelve inch mono leaders affixed to spreader arms of umbrella rig. Treble hooks are reduced to single hooks on wooden, plastic and balsa lures to eliminate treble hook tangles. Oftentimes killer rigs evolve from this experimentation.

A particularly excellent "killer rig" which I discovered for catching weakfish in Great South Bay and in Long Island Sound off Port Jefferson consists of a twenty inch homemade umbrella spreader (piano wire) or a fifteen inch Sekora umbrella to which is attached by way of twelve inch, 40 lb. test mono leaders for Bagley Weedless Wedges. Each Weedless Wedge consists of two spinners and a #3 hook skirted to a 3/4 oz. leadhead which is balanced on a stiff V-shaped steel arm by another spinner. This lure is predominantly freshwater for bass and pickerel and is a tournament winning lure in annual freshwater bass classic. I actually came up with the combination on a particular day when I observed an

old-timer trolling an umbrella rig loaded with orange tubes and shiny spinners. Every time I saw this guy he was pulling in double and triple-header weakfish while the entire fishing fleet off Fire Island Lighthouse was starving. This old "cougar" was quite secretive about pulling in his loaded up umbrella rigs. He always managed to make sure that no one actually saw him when he swung his weakies into his boat. He made one mistake. As I passed him trolling up bluefish, he ran out of gas in one tank and stopped just in front of me...close enough for me to get a peek at his homemade contraption. It had spinners—Rhode Island spinners and many orange tubes on a homemade spreader longer than the conventional fifteen inch type. Every time he placed the rig in the water and got close to bottom, he caught weakfish right in the middle of a non-fish-catching fishing fleet. To make a long story short, I perused the "tons of tackle" I have and tried to simulate this rig: bright orange teasers with hooks, plenty of shine and surge tubes that also shone brightly. I know that his rig was homemade. Mine is composed of a bastardized arrangement of existing lures consisting of Bagley Weedless Wedges (selected for maximum shine with two spinners, orange color and skirted hooks with a provision in the center of the wedge for another lure which could be that of Sekora (four inch orange tube), Big Banana, solid Lupo which are still around, Bingle, American Way or Ava. You be the selector of the lure for centering the Weedless Wedge. The combination has the right ingredients for success, as evidenced by many double and triple header weakfish caught. At any rate, this combination consists of ten hooks—eight in the Weedless Wedge and two up in the four teaser group just beneath the umbrella spreader. It is true that it is a modified "gorilla" rig, but it does catch fish when all other methods fail. If you are a true conservationist, employ this rig as a last resort.

Another umbrella arrangement employed is that of substituting Seven Strand Psychosquids (100 series) for surge tubes. Each Psychosquid is rigged so that the hook occupies a position similar to that in Diagram; #4 or #5 hooks are hidden in the tentacles of the squid with egg sinkers 3/8 to 5/8 oz. forward of hook. Beads may be used to position hooks in various locations.

In the umbrella arrangement where surge tubes are replaced by plastic, wooden or balsa plugs, 30 lb. mono with barrel swivels attaches lures to spreader arms. Leaders on lures should be no more than one foot long to eliminate sideways tendency to tangle motion.

When plastic worms replace surge tubes, be sure that rigged worms have stinger hooks in tail portions. These can be bought already rigged, or you can rig such easily by wrapping two or three turns of 20 lb. mono around the worm to which is attached a #2 or #3 single stinger hook. One end of mono is attached to forward hook.

Weakfish cannot resist any of the above which simulate nicely: small schools of baitfish, squid schools, worms or chopped up and wounded baitfish.

Try any of the four combinations illustrated for weakfish. Be inventive with your umbrella rigs.

Other Tips

When trolling wire, I would not advise going below 40 lb. test stainless or Monel. Your wire must be able to take considerable abuse from bottom snags and abrupt pulls from multiple catches.

If you find yourself snagged to the bottom, you might have to back down or run your boat in the opposite direction, enabling you to pull hooks free from the snagged object. It is here that you will appreciate having tied the lures to the umbrella rig at a lower breaking point than the shock leader.

Every so often, twice a season, reverse the wire on your 4/0 reel and do not be afraid to cut back on your terminal wire after repeated use. Wire does wear out and needs to be replaced.

When trolling wire, do not have your drag soaked up so tight that struck fish cannot pull line from the reel. I usually set my drag at about half-full reel pressure so that when the fish strikes, there is considerable resistance, fish hook themselves and can still pull wire out. This moment gives me time to get back to the rod.

MONTAUK

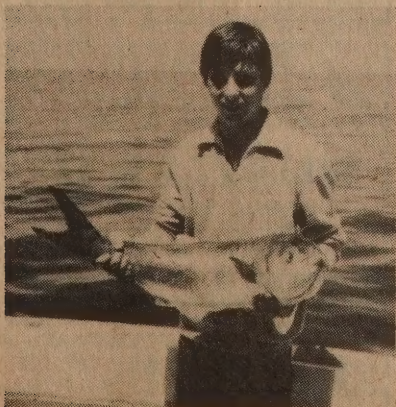
★ BEST BET ★

COD

"The codfishing is red hot" said Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** ship, "It's the best I've seen in fifteen years." Sunday's catch for Larry McCall of West Babylon was 34 cod from 8 to 12 lbs. Larry also had the pool fish that hit 40 lbs. on the scale. Paul said that most everyone had 15 to 20 cod. It was a steady pull on cod nearly all week long. There is a new big body of fish that has moved on to Coxes Ledge and they are hungrily smashing clam bait. The skipper says that night bluefish trips remain super and all fish are weighing in at 12 lbs. and up. The daily porgy trips are catching best during the week when boat traffic is at its lightest. Weekday high hooks are usually 60 to 80 porgies. Fluking is still good also with big fish predominating. Fish are avergaing 4 to 5 lbs. Sunday's pool fish tipped the scale at 8 lbs. even.

The charter boat **King Wayne** called to report that Friday's charter for Phil Lafferty and buddies from Queens totaled three blue shark and one Mako taken south of the Point in 185 ft. of water. Tuna and marlin were also around the boat. Saturday's trip for Nill Bros. Construction Co., Huntington, jugged up bluefish at the sub buoy to 6 lbs. The boat then proceeded to Block Island where they diamond jugged big blues all from 15 to 18 lbs. working southeast of Block. Sunday's charter for Gary Quedens and group from Brooklyn diamond jugged 95 alligator blues all 18 and 19 pounders. Wow! The boat also had a Saturday night bluefish charter which was also a leap job on the blue devils.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the porgy boat **Viking Skipper II** tells the news



Jean Christopher Pouillet of Paris, France, took this big chopper blue at Montauk aboard the Snapshot V.

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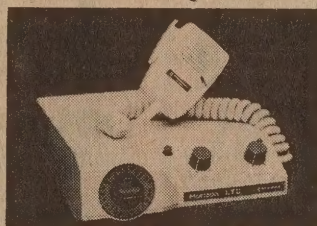
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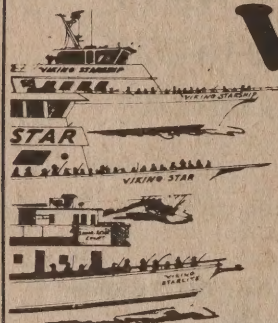
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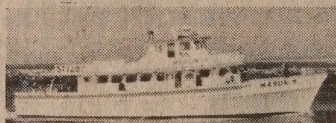
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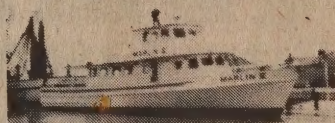
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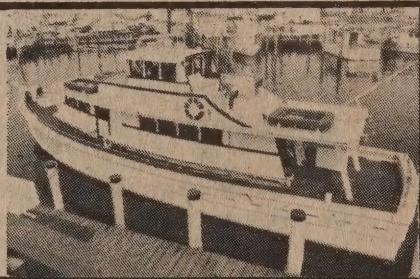
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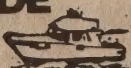
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Young Lynn Perry displays a 3 lb. flounder taken back in May at Culloden Point. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

that Saturday and Sunday's blustery northwest winds resulted in a tough time all around. However, those that worked at it, scored. Catches for many ranged from the 20's to the 70's both days. Fishing the south side of the light last week produced nice sized porgies, with catches ranging from 25's to 90's consistently made. High hook for the week was 148 porgies.

Dockmaster Rich Hall at **West Lake Fishing Lodge** reports that Capt. Zak on the charter boat **Mako Express** on Saturday had a 15 lb. tiger shark for a party and this unique specimen is going to be mounted. The charter boat **Ebb Tide** with Capt. John Sweetman at the wheel had a 150 lb. mako on Friday. His groups for Saturday and Sunday loaded up with blues and bonito working between can 3 and the sub buoy. John trolled umbrellas with drails for fish that were 30 to 40 feet down. Capt. Scotty McAllister on the **Wee Mack** brought up 75 blues to 19 lbs. Saturday fishing south of Block. Capt. Whitey Bateman on **The Four Queens** umbrellaed up nearly 400 blues on Saturday at the sub buoy. A party aboard Capt. Gary Kieffer's charter boat **Barracuda** had 75 weaks and blues trolling Saturday at the sub buoy also, with a few bonito mixed in. The boat **Clean Sweep** bagged a 100 mako on Friday. Capt. Jerry on the **Wild Turkey** on Sunday had a 277 lb. blue shark which was taken at the dumping grounds which is 50 miles off Montauk Point. Capt. Art Munday on the **Darius II** treated his party on Saturday to a 150 lb. brown shark. On Sunday Capt. Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** had over 100 bluefish fishing the sub buoy with umbrellas and drails. The **St. Lucy** boated two blue shark at 175 lbs. each at the **Butterfish Hole**. Rich says that all the boats have open days available. See **West Lake Fishing Lodge** ad for phone number.

Capt. Frank of the charter boat **Free Spirit** called to say that the inshore and offshore action has been good. Lots of brown and blue shark, one mako and a 250 lb. tiger shark fell to his parties this past week. The tiger

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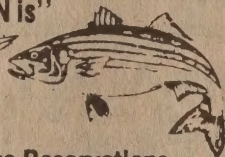
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SOUTH FORK

★ BET BET ★

BLUES

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported that Saturday's gusty north-west winds upset most of the fishing in the area. On Sunday, the boatmen took buckets of small porgies in Peconic Bay near Robin's Island and the Rose Grove. Worms and clams accounted for the best action. In Shinnecock Bay, fluke were taken in both East and West Channel. Snappers spread all over the area according to Thom and taking spearing and small shiny spoons.

Mickey at **Corr's Mariners Cove** also lamented Saturday's strong winds. Despite the wind, a Mr. Walsh returned from East Channel with 20 keeper fluke which he took on both killies and sand eels. On Sunday, Virgil Varrone aboard the Lilly Iron returned with a tiger shark of 257 lbs. The fish was found in 140' of water southeast of the inlet. Umbrella rig trollers taking good numbers of blues up to 12 lbs. about a half mile outside of the inlet.

The **Capt. Clark II** reports consistently good porgy fishing this past week in Peconic Bay. Weakfish vary each day as to quantity depending on drifting conditions. Thursday's weak-fishing was the best of the month with 2 to 4 pounders taken at Roses Grove out to the deep water east of Nassau Point. Kingfish are also mixed in and several good sized blackfish are being caught daily. On Thursday Anna Mae Rollins of Hub's Marina, Hampton Bays, was high hook with a full pail of porgies along with 5 weakfish. The boat is also catching loads of good sized snappers.\$

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** provided us with the results of the Great Gun Anglers Shark Tournament which ran this past weekend out of Moriches Inlet. Joe Santoro aboard Pat Striplin's Predator took first prize with a 239 lb. mako. The shark which was found in 210' of water southeast of the inlet was worth \$2500 in prize money. Butch Arsenault aboard the Suzanne D took 2nd

Henry's Star Island Yacht Club

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Paul Zorovich with 25 fluke and a nice bluefish. Photo courtesy of L & M Marine.

prize money of \$1000 with a 219 lb. tiger shark. Aboard the Hot Stuff, Pete Miglionico took 3rd place with a 218 lb. tiger shark. In addition, the crew aboard the Hot Stuff also put away a 165 lb. tiger and a 96 lb. bluefin which gobbled a shark bait. As for the bluefishing, Bill reported choppers from right outside the inlet on out to 60' of water. Fish ranged from 3-12 lbs. and most are being taken on trolled umbrellas. Strong fluke fishing at buoys 41 and 42, with most boats averaging 10 to 15 keepers apiece. Combo baits of sand eels, killies, spearing and squid work best. Still flounder at buoys 39 and 29 on worms and small weakfish on squid strips, Salty Dogs and Jelly Worms at buoys 43 and 44. Plenty of crabs and snappers around.

Hi-way Fishing Station reports that some of their rental skiffs found excellent flounder fishing during the week. One boat returned with over 150 flatties taken on worms at buoys 36 and 38. Fluke fishing during the week was very good from the Elbow to buoy 41. One rental skiff returned on Friday with 20 of the summer flatfish including fish of 4½ and 6½ lbs. Over the windy weekend, most boatmen fared better on Saturday than on Sunday, but fishing both days was down from what it had been during the week.

John at **Seatuck Cove** in Eastport reported good fishing for both fluke and small weaks in the area. Despite Saturday's gusty winds fishing was better than on Sunday. Barry Sherman, Leonard Feldman and Charles Nehes, all of Brooklyn, returned with 12 fluke up to 4 lbs. taken on incoming water between buoys 39 and 41 on sand eels and squid. This was on Saturday. John said catches per boat averaged between 10 and 15 keepers. Also on Saturday, Al Eiskamp, Frank Stelascio and Walter Heitman fished the buoy 42-44 area and returned with 4 weakfish, 3 small blues and 3 dozen blueclaws. Salty Dogs and squid strips accounted for the weaks and blues. Good snapper fishing and crabbing throughout the area.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** says the fluking remains very good,

★ CAPTREE ★

CAPT. ROD

FAMILY TRADE WELCOME

fluke

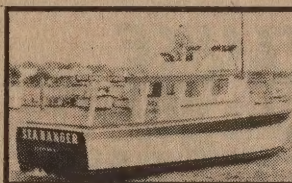
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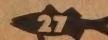
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BAY OR
 OCEAN
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particularly on the south side of the channel between buoys 39 and 41. Most rental skiffs are averaging between 12 and 20 keepers. This week has seen bigger fish up to 5 and 6 lbs. On Sunday Nick Cehiero, Gene Garavedli, Ed Pellicano and Mark Freamin, all fluke sharpies from Sheepshead Bay had 36 keeper fluke up to 5¼ lbs. on sandeel-squid combos. Blue claw crabs remain very good.

Ramona of Silly Lily Fishing Station reports very good fluking all week long despite the very windy weekend. Ralph and Joseph Byrnes and John Szokoli, all of Greenlawn, had a body count of 30 fluke to 4 lbs. on squid and sandeels working from buoy 39 to 41. Flounder catches have been holding up extremely well as long as the fishing is done in the deep holes. Buoy 38 at the dropoff was very productive. Fish are of very good size on worm and clam. This was on Saturday and Sunday. Ramona says it is very important to remember that if you want flounder now, fish the deep spots. Sea bass are starting to show.



Mike Moccio and son Mike and Bob Fleming with his son Bobby and a fine catch of 19 fluke made at the Elbow aboard a skiff rented from Hi-Way Fishing Station.

GREAT
SOUTH BAY
 ★ **BEST BET** ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at Stiriz's Fishing Station tells of lots of blues up to three pounds at buoy 21 on poppers, spearing and small tins, any tide. Fluke have been caught this week from buoy 21 on east, fish up to 4 lbs. on sandells, squid and killies on both tides. Plenty of blue claw crabs at buoy 15, best catches at the bridge and traps. Lots of trigger fish from 2 to 5 lbs. at buoy 21 on squid and clams. This is a southern species which you skin like a

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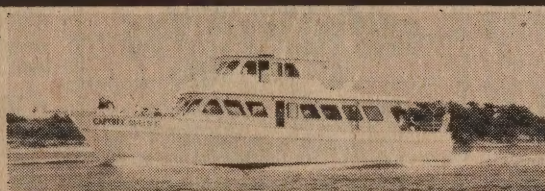
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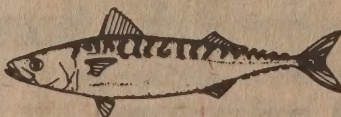
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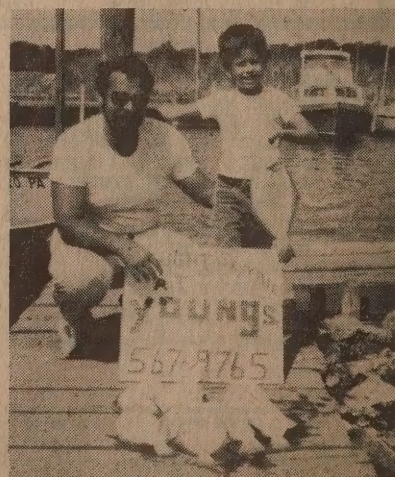
blackfish, and have a taste somewhere between cod and tilefish. Lots of sea bass up to 1½ lbs. off Floyd Point on clam. Scattered catches of porgies, eels and blowfish throughout the bay.

SAYVILLE

Bob Lee at Youngs Fishing Station spoke of good weakfishing in mid-bay during the early morning hours on sand worms, squid strips and Salty Dogs. A good showing of small bluefish over the weekend in the same area. Bob described the fluking as decent and said that he has seen a few sea bass mixed in with the fluke in recent weeks. Excellent crabbing and plenty of snappers in the creeks and from local docks. Captain Rich Torre of the Up Oars returned with 20 blues up to 11½ lbs. last week. He fished in 75' of water, 180° out of Fire Island with wire line and umbrella rigs. On Saturday, Bill Kane and Dan Cohen returned to the station with 6 weeks up to 4 lbs. Also Saturday, Frank Prucha, Jack Miller and Tony Donatelli returned with 26 weakfish up to 4 lbs. taken on squid and sand worms about a mile and a half south of Browns River. On Sunday, Pete Bilella and Ken Bedrossian took 14 weeks up to 4 lbs. on squid and sand worms in the same area.

WEST SAYVILLE

Vinnie at South Bay Fishing Station told us of tremendous weakfishing from one-half to one mile off of Sayville and wherever the dredges are working in the area. Some boats had as many as 30 to 40 weeks apiece. Most are 2-4 lbs. with an occasional 8 or 9 lber. mixed in. A good showing of small blues up to 2 lbs. Sunday evening, one boat returned to the station late Sunday with 80 of the small choppers. Best bluefishing for rentals in the early AM. Good fluke from Ocean Beach west to the WR



John Branda and son with nine fluke taken in West Channel on sand eels and squid. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishing Station.

buoy and also buoys 28 and 29. Gary McDonald and Paul O'Connell took 56 weaks as well as a few small blues one day late last week. On Saturday, Irv and Gene returned to the station by 11AM with 35 weakfish. Some fluke and weaks in the hole off of Cherry Grove, snappers excellent, and crabs very good, according to Vinnie.

OAKDALE

Big news in the area this past week concerned the freshwater scene. Dan E. Scelza used a white muddler minnow pattern to take a 12 lb. 2 oz. brown trout from the Connetquot River Sunday morning. The huge trout is now reposing in J&R's freezer awaiting mounting by Fish Unlimited Taxidermy. On Saturday, Dave who reported the week's action, fished with Tony Costelano and took 12 keeper fluke to 4½ lbs. and three small weaks on sand eel and squid combos in the State Channel near East Fox Creek. Ton Heinalin of Ronkomkoma clicked with a 87 lb. white marlin late last week fishing in 220' of water southeast of Shinnecock. The billfish took a green Kona Head. Andrew Marchase was introduced to New York fluke over the weekend. The Californian had a nice catch of flatfish up to 4 lbs. for his efforts.

BAY SHORE

From Smokey's Bait and Tackle Linda reported that Rich and Stacy Miller accounted for 49 fluke and 14 blues on sand eel and squid combos at buoy 6. Bob and Ricky Shasravek trolled 7 blues on umbrella rigs at the Whistle buoy. Red jelly worms helped Dennis Miccico and Maureen to land 36 weaks and 8 blues between the Captree bridge and Snake Hill channel. Last Thursday, 3½ year old Jenny Zapia caught her first fish ever, a fluke which weighed in at 1¾ lbs. Linda passed along the results of the Surf Side III Snapper Derby. In the Jr. Division, Robert Bricker took 1st place, John Peterson 2nd and Patricia Bradley, 3rd. In the Senior Division, Lisa Ferry was 1st, followed by Shawn Bower and Marty Guttard. Blues being trolled at the inlet on umbrella



Hank, Phil Holowski, and Captain Mike Maier with a 460 lb. mako taken S.E. of Fire Island Inlet aboard the boat Shotsie. The big shark made five spectacular leaps during the course of a one hour battle. Subscriber photo.

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rigs and weakfish taking trolled umbrellas near the WR buoy.

The Outer Banks off of Patchogue were hot through the middle of last week, but fishing died Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Bonito and skip jack in 100' of water southeast for trollers. Plenty of snappers and crabs at the local docks and an occasional 2-4 lb. weak mixed with the snappers.

Capt. Neil of the **Casey Lee** tells us that fluke catches have been good all week and weekend. Monday and Tuesday Hy Brown had 34 fluke for the 2 days. Saturday and Sunday regular Chris from Lake Ronkonkoma had 20 fluke fishing West Island and Sexton Island on sandeel-squid combos

CAPTREE

Capt. Marty of the **Jib Fleet** tells us that his new ultra-modern **Jib VII** should be in operation Saturday, August 23. If there are any questions on this, give him a buzz. The boat will be sailing 7 A.M. fluke and 7 P.M. blues. The **Jib VI** will of course be fluking their usual two trips daily at 8 A.M. and 3 P.M. The fluking has been from fair to good all week long from the inlet to the lighthouse. Fish are mixed sizes and 75 percent are keepers. Elvira Grein of Glendale, Queens, daughter Carol and son Edwin on August 7th had a 3½ lb. fluke and 15 other keepers. They had also fished on August 5th with a catch of 22 fluke including a 5 lb. pool fish.

BABYLON

Margaret at the **Babylon Fishing Station** reported pretty fair fluke fishing in the State Channel this weekend. Sand eels, spearin and squid seem to be working best on the



This nice fluke was decked by Joe Aumuller of Ridgewood aboard the Captree charter boat "Leo D."

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fish. Tom Crowley and Mike Harty took 40 blues from 2-3 lbs at the inlet over the weekend. Apparently a good boy of these small choppers is roaming the bay and inlet area. Snapper fishing very good locally and crabs so-so.

Dennis at High Hook Fishing Station told us that Frank Fontana Tony Ferrara and Bob Laver returned with an outstanding catch of 38 fluke to 3 lbs. which they made in the Babylon Cut on spearing using tandem hook rigs. One boat interested in snappers fished right in front of the pool and put away 50 good sized snappers in short order.

Freddy at Augie's Bait and Tackle relayed word of a 745 lb. tiger shark for Mike Moe who was fishing aboard the boat Allstar in 180' of water south east of the inlet Sunday. Vinnie DeMartino, skipper of the 6Ds, along with Steve Pace and Fred Formato returned with 3 dolphin up to 27 lbs. John Donovan used jigs to take 35 small blues near the inlet and Dan Mongo, aboard the boat Blue Water returned from the canyon Sunday with a 44 lb. white marlin Bonito and football size tuna in 110' to 120' of water and near the NA buoy according to Fred. He called the fluking consistent and said that small weaks and snappers have been keeping everyone busy at the town dock.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ **BEST BET** ★
SNAPPERS

MASSAPEQUA

George Buzzetta fishing along with Walt Durchhaeter had 6 stripers to 15 lbs. on small umbrella rigs fishing in Jones Inlet aboard his boat My Judy.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle said that while fluke are still being taken, the action seemed to slow somewhat in recent days. Weakfish taking sand worms after dark at the 3rd Wantagh and Meadowbrook Bridges. Small bluefish being taken in the inlet as well as just outside and lots of snappers from all the local docks and in nearby creeks. Blueclaw crabs showed a slight improvement this week.

John of Pop's Fishing Station said that Bill Kind used a live snapper to take a 5 lb. fluke one day last week. John fished with his grandfather and Mr. Lang. Lori Dichiaro returned to the station with a half bushel of blueclaws, some of which measured 6" from shell tip to shell tip. Rudolph Melzig did an outstanding job on the

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fluke using killies west of the 2nd
bridge. The lone angler accounted for
29 of the toothy flatfish.

Sal at Custom Tackle reports that
Paul Greco of Babylon caught 38
blues to 15 lbs. outside Jones on
umbrellas on Sunday in 40 ft. of
water. He fluked later in the day and
had a 4 and a 6 pounder on spearing
and sand eels, same depth. Fair
catches of blues on umbrellas this
past week and also on green and
white Jig-A-Tails. Snappers in abun-
dance all over the place on small tins
and bait. A school of large tuna was
sighted on Sunday 30 miles south of
F.I. Inlet. One stripped a 9/0 clean.
Other tuna were seen breaking. A 30
pounder which was caught was filled
with butterfish, so it might make
sense to try a Tri-Fin flatfish rig.

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station says
the fluking has been very good over
the weekend. A Mr. Hemple on
Sunday decked 15 keepers from
Massapequa Cove. Snappers all over
the place. A few weakfish have been
taken at the bridge on live snapper.
Snappers at the Town Dock and 63
were taken by Al Curry, from 8 to 12
inches. The station is holding a
snapper derby on Saturday if there is
no rain. All anglers 13 years and
younger may sign up and there will be
tackle prizes.

MERRICK

Jimmy at Nick's Fishing Station
reports snappers are taking weakfish
at the third Wantagh bridge, wekas
running from 6 to 8 lbs. on bucktail
and squid strip. Last of the outgoing
has been best.

Saturday and Sunday saw good
flounder catches for Dolores and
George Goldberg of Monticello with
45 flounder Saturday and 48 flounder
Sunday fishing Swift Creek with
bloodworms. This was smack in the
middle of Swift Creek and fish were
mostly one pounders. The weekend
saw generally poor fluking for the
rental boats but a good catch was had
by Ray Cotti, Jack Slekes and Mom
Ellie with 18 fluke, 2 snapper blues, 2
blowfish and 2 sea bass, all drifted up
at Merrick Point on sandeels and
spearing. Eight fluke fillets were
stolen by sea gulls virtually from the
very grasp and Nick and Emil
Dell'Erario of Valley Stream. The
fillets were on fish cleaning tables,
Nick and Emil turned away for a
couple of minutes and when they
turned back the gulls were seen flying
away with the fillets. Who says gulls
are stupid?

BALDWIN

Andy at Arthur Street Fishing
Station tells of a very good weekend
for fluke in Middle and Baldwin Bays
on killie and squid bait. Catches were
to the tune of 6-15 keepers per boat
with a one-third keeper ratio. Also
plenty of blueclaw crabs at the creeks
in Middle Bay. A few blues were
trolled Sunday at Cholera.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE ★ BEST BET ★ BLUES

FREEPORT

The **Capt. Lou III** reports that he has been mostly ocean fishing for large fluke from 3 to 7 lbs. all this past week, at Ambrose. These are all big thick fish and Mike says come on down for the gorilla fluke now. Thursday saw exceptionally good catches of the big flatfish. The **Capt. Lou IV** is sold out for August 23 for the half-day afternoon trip, but the morning trip is open.

Capt. Joe "Tuna" Long strikes again. For the first tuna catch of the season, John O'Connell of New Jersey had a 61 lb. yellow fin tuna. Keith Hopler bagged a 62 lb. 8 oz. yellow fin while Ken Hopler hooked and landed a 35 lb. yellow fin. This was all aboard Joe's charter boat **Nite Owl**. Fishing was done southeast of the Noah Buoy on Jet, lures on Sunday. Saturday's charter in a rough sea had a solid catch of skipjack. This trip was for Arped Klauz and party. During the week the boat had been having very good bluefish catches both trolling and diamond jigging west of Cholera with good results on top lines with feathers in 80 ft. of water.

The **Capt. Al** reports a good week and weekend on the bluefish, although the northwest wind on Saturday hurt the weekend a bit. Sunday morning at Scotland saw loads of small blues caught. They fished the N.B. and Cholera in the afternoon. Water temperature went from 75 degrees to 65 degrees in just four hours on Friday and put the fish off their feed on Saturday. They took hold again on Sunday however. Sunday south of Ambrose there were small tuna or large albacore schools. They had loads of bluefish on the boat on Sunday at Seabright. Monday's fishing was super, just like mackerel yanking. Tuesday was excellent on big blues at Cholera. Wednesday there was an hour and a half of unbelievable white water fishing. With the quiet weather now action should be super once again.

The **Starstream II** reports a good showing of fish on Saturday and Sunday despite all the wind. Conditions made catches a little tougher but fares still had good catches of 7 to 14 lb. fish. Sunday the boat did its jig fishing off Bellport. Thursday and Friday night very good catches were made locally with the boat fishing just one hour from the dock. Capt. Richie says that with the water not being disturbed with strong winds now the

bluefishing should resume its excellent characteristics for the weekend.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports brisk bluefishing all week long through Saturday, slowing a bit on Sunday. Wednesday's frantic action saw 14 passengers jig up 107 blues up to 16 lbs. plus in just 2 hours. The B.F. II and III have been fishing anywhere from southeast of Jones to south-southwest of Jones. It's jigs daytime, butters and smelts at night. Pool fish for the week was a 16 lb. 2 oz. blue for Levittown angler Tom Rossetti. There are still some openings for the cod wreck trip to be held August 21. See ad for number. Chuck Adams of Rockville Centre recently took a 16 lb. 1 oz. blue aboard the B.F. III.

The **Freeport Boatmen's Association** reports that Capt. Ray Hamill on the charter boat Barbara Anne had 300 lbs. of blues on Sunday for Doctor Davis and party on triple rigs working due south of Jones.

Tony at **Anthony's Fishing Station** described the fluking as fair. He did see two nice fish on Sunday. Kathy

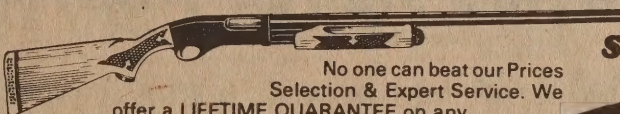
Anderson took a 6 lb. doormat, while Ray Avdel followed her fish up with a 5.2 iber. Both were taken on killie and squid combos. Best locations have been the State Channel, Long Creek and the Bay of Fundy. A few sea bass being taken at the bridges and plenty of snappers all around the area.

Charter boat **Suzanne** called to say Sunday's fishing picked up with two makos being taken, roughly in the 100 lb. class. Bluefishing has been very good in 80' of water for Joe Pecetti and party on the weekend.

Captain Bill Lindroth of the half-day fluke boat **Captain Bill** happily announces his wife gave birth to a 7 lb. 2 oz. boy, and Bill is naming his new first mate Shaun William Lindroth. Shaun was the largest baby born in Freeport this past week and took the pool.

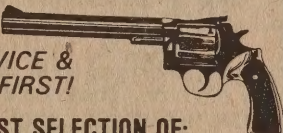
Captain Dan of the Charter boat **Nan-Sea** called to say he fished southeast of Jones in 150' of water Sunday. Trolling in the morning resulted in a 3 lb. dolphin taken on a Green Machine. There were also 2

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THE FIGHTING CHAIR: EMERGENCY STRIPER STUDY

(Continued from page 4.)

bass on all coasts.

The second study is a joint FWS/NMFS cooperative project to determine the effects of environmental contaminants on the physiology, survival and growth of striped bass eggs, larvae, and post-larvae. The work is being done at NMFS's Northeast Fisheries Center Narragansett Laboratory with cooperation from the Columbia Laboratory. As of May 19, 1980, the Narragansett Lab received eight shipments of eggs and/or larvae from twenty-six females caught at eight locations from New York to South Carolina. Striped bass larvae are currently being reared at the Laboratory for pollution residue and biochemical analyses.

Dr. Paul M. Mehrle, principal investigator for environmental contaminant research at the Columbia Lab, feels the research efforts look very promising based on the preliminary results, and is encouraged by the atmosphere of cooperation he has had from FWS, NMFS, the Atlantic Coast States, the University of Maryland, Texas Instruments, Consolidated Edison, and fishermen.

The Emergency Study represents a short-term Federal initiative to fund needed research on the striped bass resource to enable and expedite improved management. In passing the enabling legislation for this study, Congress recognized the responsibility and authority of the Coastal States for managing striped bass fisheries since the resource occurs in, and is harvested predominantly in, State territorial waters. The Congressional intent of the study is to complement and support ongoing management and research programs by providing increased knowledge of the resource and factors which affect it. Such information should assist the States substantially in establishing sound, comprehensive, compatible and equitable management.

The timing of the Emergency Study is fortuitous because the States from Maine through North Carolina already are jointly engaged in developing a fishery management plan for Atlantic Coastal striped bass stocks. This effort, sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service's State/Federal Fisheries Management Program has been under way since 1977 and is expected to be completed by late 1981. Information resulting from the Emergency Study will be referred to the States as it becomes available for immediate consideration and possible revision of the management plan.

For input or further information, contact: Dick Schaefer, NMFS Building #2, 3300 Whitehaven St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235.



knockdowns. After this the party chummed and had a large shark on that eventually busted loose. They did catch a 50 lb. mako. The charter was for Artie and group from Lynbrook.

captain Marty of the charter boat Sandpearl called to say Friday and Saturday's trips trolled up to 30 blues per trip on umbrellas working south-east of the NB.

POINT LOOKOUT

Andy Chisholm told me from Scotty's Fishing Station that boatmen have been doing well with the fluke in Reynolds Channel and near the rock jetty near Short Beach on incoming tide. A lot of small fluke, but an occasional 5-7 lber helps to keep things interesting. For bluefish, best bet has been in the early morning hours off of the Lido Hotel. Umbrella rig trollers have been finding that the further off the beach you get the bigger the blues. Weakfish at the Inlet on bunker chunks and umbrella rigs. Offshore, the blues seems to be scattered around and a few tuna are being picked up in 110 to 140' of water.

Ed's Fishing Station reported fluke fishing was okay during the week but slowed over the weekend due to strong winds. On Friday, Chris Dubis, Chris Walsh and Ed Puzio, all of New Jersey had 22 keeper fluke up to 3½ lbs. On Saturday Elliot Galany and his friend Marv had a dozen good fluke. Sea bass and snappers plentiful all along the channel.

Charter boat Marie III reports that Wednesday's charter for Tom Filatto of New Jersey fished the Sandy Hook channels for fluke. They took fluke between 3-6 lbs. all of which were keepers. Eight men had from 3-6 fish apiece. Saturday's charter for Chris Guglielmo and party had to come back due to sloppy sea conditions but the day was bailed out with flounder to 2 lbs. off the houses in Swift Creek, at the Meadowbrook bridge and buoy 15 in Long Creek. This was on clam bait. Sunday's trip, being poor on bluefish managed to bail out with some good sized fluke at Sandy Hook channel and the Tin Can Grounds.



Kurt, Dave, Jerry and Marvin with 350 lbs. of blues and big weaks caught on umbrella rigs at Sandy Hook aboard the "Kim."

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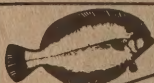
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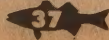
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ATLANTIC BEACH

Skippy's Bait and Tackle reported bluefishing improved thanks to a showing of 2-3 lb. choppers off of Riis Park. Fish are being both jigged and also trolled on umbrella rigs. An occasional bass being taken at the bridges, but it's been really tough picking. A good showing of big fluke along Ambrose Channel. Killies and spearing have been taking lots of 2-5 lb. flatfish, with an occasional larger fish taken. Good snapper fishing throughout the area.

JAMAICA BAY

Artie told me from his Cross Bay Tackle Shop that Tony Compagnino used a killie and squid combo under the Marine Parkway bridge Saturday to put away a doormat fluke of 8 lbs. 10 oz. Mike Tripani scored with a 5 lb. fluke. The bridge is providing good snapper fishing and porgy fishing and Artie described the crabbing in the area as okay.

Canarsie Sports and Tackle reports quite a few sand porgies being caught on worms off the Canarsie pier. Lots of snappers also from small to mediums on small spearing and sidewinder lures. A fair number of fluke being taken off the pier, mostly keepers on spearing, squid or com-bos. Large stingrays are hung from the pier at night, a prime scallop substitute.

Pat Fly called to say that aside from loads of bait being in the water, there are good sized blueclaw crabs in most of the basins. Mixed size fluke at Silver Hole and along the black wall at Floyd Bennett from 4½ to 6 lbs. on spearing and large killies. Boats have been diamond jigging weaks at Ambrose.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Walt Weigand of the Flamingo III who has been enjoying good bluefishing all during the past week says Saturday's cold northwest winds really put the fishing down for

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GLEN COVE

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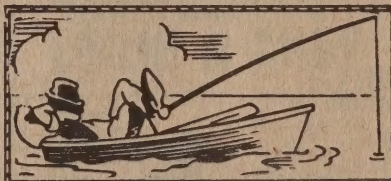
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First Traffic Light at Jack's Bait & Tackle



This 4½ lb. fluke was landed by Eric Asar aboard the Sheepshead Bay boat "Zephyr."

Saturday. However, on Sunday the wind moderated and the blues bounced back. Fares had a very good morning jigging blues from 1½ to 3 lbs. along with a few 5 lbers. After a midday lull, they had another good few hours in the afternoon on larger blues. Included in the catch were 4 weeks from 5-8 lbs. This was all on diamond jigs. Wait says the fluke boats enjoyed a very good weekend with the winds allowing the fluke boats to enjoy long and favorable drifts.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at Santo's Sport Shop spoke of weakfish both inside and just outside of Great Kills Harbor. Also at buoy 20 in Princess Bay. Tiderunners up to 10 lbs. taken on sand worms and bunker chunks. Bluefish from 5-12 lbs. being trolled and taken on chunk bait near old Orchard light. For fluke fishermen, Swinburne Island and West Bank Light have provided good action on smelt, sand eels and squid. Some school bass being taken at the 21 can and Swinburn Island by worm trollers and drifters. Plenty of snappers and small porgies around and crabs showing some improvement. Big blueclaws being taken at piers 8, 12, and 17.

PECONIC & GARDINERS

★ BET BET ★

PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt. Bob Ceglowski of the **Peconic Star** called to say that Friday's high hook was Butch and Ellen Gensburg of Smithtown with 107 porgies. Despite Saturday's wind, healthy catches of porgies was had nonetheless. Ted Vonner of Bayonne, N.J. had 53 porgies and 7 blackfish. Sunday's catch was fantastic, says Bob with almost 800 porgies for 30 fares. Adolphus Mimn of New Rochelle had 81 porgies and was high hook for the day. These are all mediums. The porgies are improving daily and the skipper is working Long Island Sound, Plum Island and Gardiners Island.

Capt. Roddy DeLisle of the charter boat **Prowler II** called to say that his fluke charters have been great this week. Friday's trip for George Bedenour had two sons had a solid catch of fluke up to four pounds on sand eels and squid fishing off the Ruins. Roddy says there are good quantities of keepers to be had. The charter Saturday was a porgie expedition and excellent catches were made south of Plum Island, all medium-

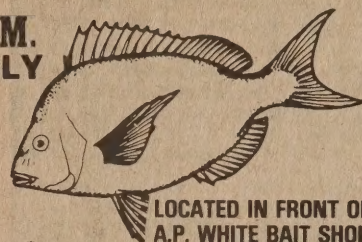
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TUES. & THURS.
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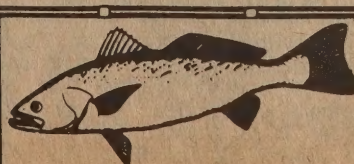
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DELMAR II

6 MAN LIMIT • FULLY EQPT. • DIESEL

BLUEFISH

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jumbo fish, using worm and clam bait, the boats fish box was filled in a half hour.

Art of A.P. White Bait Shop knew that boatmen did well with fluke at the Ruins. There's been good porgy action off of Green Hill at Gardiner's and bluefish are again establishing themselves in the Race and also showed up in the Gut on Sunday. Fair blackfishing for this time of the year at Gull Island and a few big bass being picked in the Gut and the Sluice way. Loads of snappers all over the place.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at Port of Egypt Fishing Station says plenty of sand porgies in the bay at South Ferry, Buoy 16, 17 and 18 running up to medium fish, all on clam and worm. Weakfish are running 1½ to 3 lbs. at Roses Grove on hi-lo rigs using squid or worm. At the Orient Station during the week porgies have been getting better and better. Petty's Bight and the area right in front of the station have been very productive. Blacks are improving daily at Orient. Flounders have picked up again at the traps east of the station, and running 1 to 1½ pounds. Fluke have been tapering off at Orient. The big boats at the marina are going around to Gardiners and working off the sand bar for 2 to 5 lb. fluke. Blues are being taken off the beach at McCabes and Kenny's Beach on Hopkins from the sand. A couple of schoolie bass have fallen to sand worms fishing off the Rocky Point Beach from dusk to dawn. A 31 lb. striper was taken from Clark's Beach on a red tube cast into the suds in the dark. Clark's is between Southold and East Marion.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that their skiffs scored with good catches over the weekend despite the wind and weather. Solid catches of porgies were had at Roses Grove and Nassau Point. Lots of weakfish were caught between the white house and Roses Grove on squid tipping hi-lo rigs. These fish ran from 1½ to 3½ lbs. Hoboken angler Joe Stezz boated 100 porgies and 50 weakfish Sunday working Roses Grove on both tides Sunday using squid and sandworms on a hi-lo rig. Both tides have been producing and the porgies have been averaging 1 to 1½ lbs. A few kingfish have been showing up and the snappers are starting to snap.

SAG HARBOR

The Wilhelric reports that Thursday's porgy trip was great with Brooklyn anglers scoring with big numbers of porgies. 92 for Stan Holder. 76 for Howard Brown. 58 for Bill Jones. 82 for East Hampton anglers Steve Clark, Jr. and Grandpa.

Friday's trip had 9 out of 13 fares catch over 100 porgies, and the boat was back at the dock and tied up by 1 P.M. These were all nearly medium sized fish. Saturday's trip was fair, even with the high winds and many customers caught in the 40's. Sunday's catches bounced back strong once again. Fluking Tuesday was poor but Wednesday saw excellent fluke catches on this Ladies Day trip with roughly 150 keeper fluke in the 2 to 3 lb. range. The pool fish ran 6 lbs.

NOYAC

Helen at Noyac Marina reports catches of porgies and weaks off Long Beach and off buoy 16. Fluke off the Monestary all during the past week through Friday. Snappers all over the place of good size. Snappers also off Long Beach with an occasional weak thrown in.

NORTH SHORE Mid-Island

★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

ROCKY POINT

Stan at Rocky Point Fishing Stop said that before the weekend, buoys 9 and 11 and the Middle Grounds were all the scene of good bluefish action. Fluke being taken inshore of buoy 9 on sand eel-spearling and squid combos. For real good fluking, Stan suggested fishing between buoy 5 and the Northville tanks. Plenty of tinker mackerel in the area mixed with the many schools of snappers.

SELDEN

Bill at Angler's Den tells us that the area from Cedar Beach to Stony Brook is alive with snappers and you should be able to get anywhere from 100 to 150 if you put your mind to it. Weakfish have slowed during the past week due to tides. This week's tides should be ideal for dusk through dawn worm drifting fir weaks. Ralph Morina loaded up with blues on Friday, so many that he threw back 50. This was off Mt. Misery Shoal at buoy 11 on diamond jigs. Choppers are also being jigged off Cedar Beach exactly 1½ miles off the dry sand in 30 to 60 feet of water. These are 4 to 9 lb. fish. Porgies up to 2½ lbs. are being taken on sandworms between Cranes Neck and Oldfield Point in fifty feet of water. Sixty one fluke to 5 lbs. 8 oz. were live killed by Bruce Marin, fishing Moriches Bay at buoy 29 on Wednesday. This was during the last half of the flood and the entire ebb. Bill asked us to let you know that

Angler's Den is holding archer's safety courses for the upcoming bow hunting season. See ad for phone number in order to sign up.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Bob at Fisherman's Haven tells us there are lots of blues and a few weakfish to be caught in the Sound from Port Jeff on east. These are mixed fish from 2 to 7 pounds. They are hitting diamond jigs and also trolled umbrellas and also single tubes. Gary Sing accounted for 50 blues which he trolled up on wire line using white Tri-Fin eel worms, working in 15 foot depths. Also deadly was a aforementioned lure but with a white tube tied in roughly 3 feet up. Lots of tinker mackerel and snappers at Cedar Beach. Also lots of small porgies on clam and worm at Oldfield Point, Cranes Neck and Miller Place for boat fishermen.

Ralph's Fishing Station informs us that there are a whole lot of fish around, including blues to 10 lbs.

which are frequenting the buoy 9 area. Smaller blues are being taken at buoy 11. Generally fish are averaging 3 to 4 lbs. on jigs, trolled umbrellas, trolled single tubes and tins, with or without wire or lead line. Lots of porgies in the hand sized category in all the rocky areas hitting worm and clam bait at Mt. Misery, Miller Place and any area where the rocks grow. Some weakfish mixed in with the blues, weaks from 6 to 10 lbs., same tempters. Some fluke around, with better catches during the week to the tune 8 to 9 keepers a day for skiffs working the flats just outside the station. A few bonito being trolled up with the blues. A 15 lb. blue was the reward for Jay Perone of Miller Place.

PORT JEFFERSON

John at Carafis Fishing Station reports excellent porgy fishing at Oldfield, and Cranes Neck with lots of humpbacked porgies mixed in! Very good bluefishing all week at buoy 11 on trolled umbrellas and diamond



A 16 lb. blue taken by young Tony Santoro hangs from the scale at O.K. Bait and Tackle in Kings Park.

★ SHEEPSHEAD BAY ★

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6:30 A.M. DAILY | NITE BLUES 7P.M.

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NIGHT BLUES ★ \$15.

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jigs. These are 5 to 6 pounders. Millions of snappers all over the place running around 6 and 7 inches. Fluking has been fair off the pink house on sand eels and squid on both tides and some weakfish have been picked up on these very same fluke rigs. Generally weaks have been spotty but have been caught best on the Connecticut side. Porgies are the best bet for the area.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle reports super snapper fishing on small tins and small spearing. Excellent bluefishing on diamond jigs and tubes in Smithtown Bay, fish going 8 to 15 lbs. Wednesday saw a very strong catch of porgies, running up to 4 lbs.

NORTHPORT

Tom at Bowman's Sporting Goods



Carol Vaglio shows off her first striped bass. The 6½ lb. was landed aboard the "Ever Ready" and checked in at Four Winds Bait and Tackle.

reported that the obstruction buoy has been the hotspot for blues and weaks up to 10 lbs. Jig and tube combos, as well as umbrellas fished deep with wire, have been accounting for some heavy scores. Some blues are also found at buoy 11B and north of the Lilco loading platform. Small weaks continue to take jelly worm and squid combos at Duck Island. Sand porgies all over the area, with an occasional school of bigger porgies showing up near Sand City. Good snapper fishing at the town dock with bigger snappers being taken in the creek at Crab-meadow. Eleven-year-old Genevieve Pullis weighed in a 7¼ lb. weakfish Friday. Her dad George scored with a 10 lb. blue.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Jim of the open boat **High Hook** called to say that Saturday's trip for 14 fares had roughly 200 weakfish. Dennis Teall of Northport had 21 weaks. Dennis is a regular on the boat and was high hook. Fish were also caught on Sunday mixed with blues around the area of Eaton's Neck, all fish being caught on diamond jigs.

A 15 lb. 13 oz. blue was decked by Woodbury angler Marty Meltzer on an umbrella fishing the area of Cold Spring Harbor last Saturday at sunset. Marty took the fish into Freeport and weighed it in at **Capt. Ben's Fish Dock**.

Captain Don Constantine of the open boat **Ever Ready** said that they have been enjoying super action with bluefish action in the "Blue triangle" on Sunday's 5AM and 5PM trips, pandemonium reigned as hundreds of blues came aboard. Dolores Schmitt of Woodbury had 9 blues and an 8 lb. weak Sunday. Herb Brown took the pool with a 14½ lb. chopper. Dolores

also fished on the Thursday AM trip and accounted for five weaks and four blues. Nearly 60 weakfish came aboard Thursday PM. High hook on the morning trip had 18 blues and weaks. Eleven-year-old Kevin Palmieri had an 11 lb. pool winning weakfish Thursday morning. Captain Don called the bottom fishing excellent with big porgies up to 3 lbs. being taken. Angela Brown had such a fish during the week and Pat Morley had a 5 lb. fluke. See the **Ever Ready** ad for he new sailing schedule.

The word from **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** was plenty of blues and weaks at the obstruction buoy on diamond jigs. John Munno used wire line and bucktails Sunday evening to troll 21 blues and one weakfish at buoy 13.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** reported excellent action with blues and weaks before the weekend's blustery winds. Most of the fishing is in the vicinity of the obstruction buoy where wire line trollers score heavily in the daytime and diamond jiggers do a job in the AM and evenings. Bass, blues and weaks on wire line and bucktails at buoy 13. Most bass run 6-12 lbs. Joe Nigro weighed in an 11 lb. fluke on Sunday, which he took at buoy 13. Nice sized porgies for sinker bouncers off of Marshall Field and also at Eatons Neck.

GLEN COVE

Capt. Joe on the **Lady Lil II** tells us that the bluefish action still holds good with some days being truly super. Sunday's pool fish for one customer by the name Sean from Garden City ran 17 lbs. 8 oz. and grabbed the \$60 pool. The boat is averaging 5 to 6 weaks a day in the 7 to 10 lb. class. Best action is off Eaton's Neck with some weaks also off Smithtown Bay. This is all jig fishing.

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KEEP OUR
WATERS CLEAN!



Seven-year-old Yushi Nanami with a nice bluefish caught aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide II."

John of the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported snappers continue to be the mainstay in the area. The little scrappers are all over and being taken on spearing, as well as small artificials. Some of the sharper anglers in the area have been livelining the snappers to take weakfish in the 4-8 lb. class. The blues still seem to be concentrated to the east of here. Good porgy action wherever one finds sandy shoal bottom. Worms account for these fish in the Glen Cove and Bayville area.

NORTH SHORE WEST END ★ BEST BET ★ BLUES

CITY ISLAND

Capt. Joe Ferrara of the **Ebb Tide II** reports that last Sunday nights bluefish trip off to Mattinickock saw excellent catches of bluefish, catches from 25 to 35 per man in the 4 to 10 lb. range, all on jigs. The boat will continue making the Sunday night trips, which return Monday evening as long as the fish continue to cooperate. The regular daytime porgy fishing during the week continues to hold very nicely with the skipper working from Bayville to Smithtown for all medium sized porgies, with small weakfish mixed in and also a few blacks.

Jack at **Jack's Bait and Tackle** told of plenty of porgies being taken near the old CBS tower. Most run from 3/4 up to 1 lb. Lots of bass being worm trolled at Harts and High Islands. Some are taken on cast Rebels. Many of the stripers run from 4-6 lbs. Biggest fish this past week was a 16 lber. A few big blues around, but nothing consistent and loads and loads of snappers.

SURF REPORT with Fred Golofaro

Gusty, northwest breezes which swept our area this past weekend served as a soothing reminder that September is only a short cast away. Despite spending long hours during the winter getting gear ready for next season, most of us still approach the height of the surf season with plugs in need of new hooks or paint, reels

wanting for new line and drag washers, and rods which could probably stand to have a guide or two replaced.

Judging by the scant reports received around the Island this week, the wiser among us might use the next two weeks to prepare for those long awaited months of September, October and November when the surfman reigns supreme on Long Island beaches.

South Shore

In the Staten Island area, Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** reported that the surf remained relatively quiet again this week, with the only action being with some small bluefish at Great Kills Park and some 10-12 lb. choppers at Pier 10 for a short time in the early morning hours. Bunker chunks accounting for the choppers in both locations.

From **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle**, Artie filled me in on the Jamaica Bay area activity. Joe Roman stopped by the shop with three bass from 5-6 lbs. and a 13 lb. weakfish which he took on fresh bunker early Friday AM from the South Channel bridge. Returning Monday morning with fresh whole bunker, Joe put away weakfish of 9 and 6 lbs. Artie added that anglers continue to pick away with weaks and blues on bait at the North Channel bridge also.

Skippy told me from his **East Rockaway Tackle Shop** that some of his regular customers have been

giving the beach in the area a pretty good going over to no avail. Things remain very quiet along most of the Rockaways.

Scattered reports of weakfish and small blues from Democrat east to Shinnecock on tins and sand worms. Nothing really outstanding to report along this stretch of beach.

Thom of **Specks Tackle Shop** in Shinnecock did add that there have been plenty of short bass in the vicinity of the inlet which bodes well for the future. Anyone taking any of these 14" to 15" fish should handle them with as much care as possible before releasing them.

Out at Montauk, Johnny Kronuch reported fishing along Gin Beach and Shagwong remained dead this past week. Few guys bothered trying this past weekend, but from what John could tell there was little doing up front either. He did hear of a couple of weaks and a few blues here and there along the south side. To confirm this, I received a call from Don Avondolio who told me that his son John vacationing at Hither Hills watched fellow campers Bud McNally and his son Tom put 4 bluefish from 7-10 lbs. and an 8 lb. weakfish on the beach late Friday afternoon. The pair used tins to take the fish. Mike Kaland of the Striper Surf Club called to report that several members of this hard fishing club journeyed to Montauk Saturday night with the prospect of northwesterly winds providing some lively action under the Light. Unfor-

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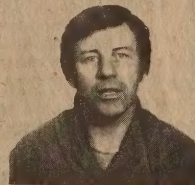


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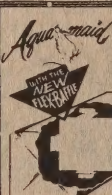
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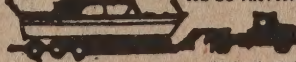
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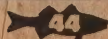
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tunately, only a few small blues and weaks belted the darters and bottle plugs worked by the casters. Overall, Mike said that the past couple of weeks have been quiet for club members as it has been for most everyone else around the Island.

North Shore

Jack of Jack's Bait and Tackle in City Island dittoed his report of the past couple of months. School bass continue to be taken in Turtle Cove on Rebels, small bucktails and sand worms. Weakfish are occasionally mixed in with the bass, which in recent days, have been averaging 3-7 lbs. Some shorts still being taken as well as an occasional fish in the 10-15 lb. range.

John told me from his Glen Cove Sport Shop that the only activity along area beaches other than snappers has been weakfish in the 4-8 lb. class

being taken on livelined snappers. As for the snappers, some local flyrod-ders have been having a ball working the shore with yellow streamers.

George Valentine told me that the only activity he has heard of in the Huntington area has been a few 2-3 lb. blues taken at Caumsett and some flurries of activity down at the Lilco plant. Small tins, Tri-Fin Eel Worms, Rebels, and Tri-Fin spoon jigs all accounting for the small choppers. No bass news to speak of in the area.

Tom Bowman confirmed George Valentine's report of 2-3 lb. blues at the power plant. Tins, plugs and Tri-Fin lures once again mentioned for these fish.

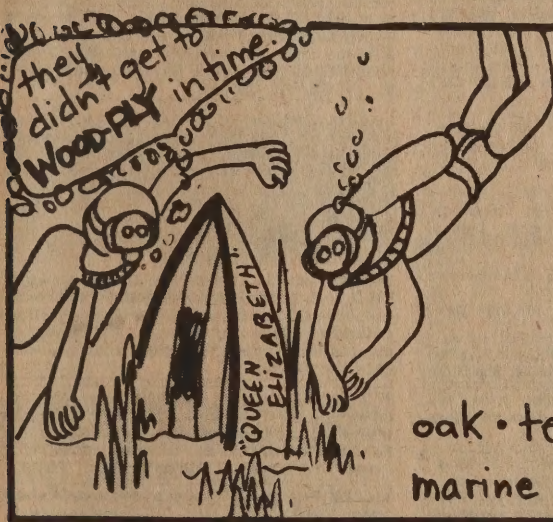
Some good flurries of bluefish and weakfish action before the weekend, according to Stan at the Rocky Point Fishing Stop. Friday evening, Ken Frink took 20 blues from 3-7 lbs. near Hagerman's Landing. A few weeks up

to 7 lbs. were taken by other casters. Small tins, especially the Tri-Fin spoon jigs have been taking the fish.

Way out on the North Fork, Art White told me from his Greenport Bait Shop that an occasional big bass is weighed in by close-mouthed locals who leave little details about their catches. Art felt pretty sure that some of the fish he has weighed in were taken on swimming plugs. No word on where.



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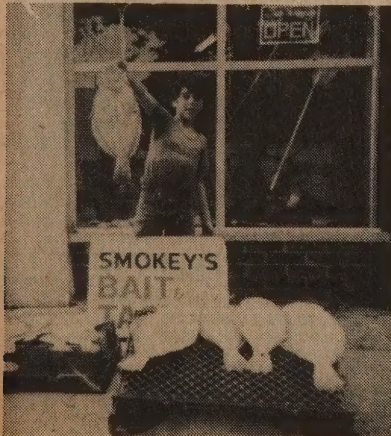
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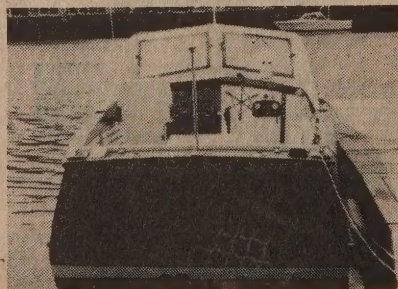
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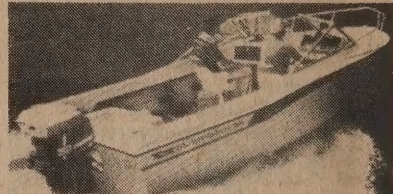
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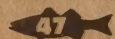
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